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CARRIE-ANNE MOSS

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ND YOU RE...?

Doug Smith
Window painter, Smith-Grasdal

ar is the strangest job anyone's ever d you to do?
lay! We do some pretty far out stuff View City Likwid Lounge—punk-rock s Claus, Santa getting a lap dance on hand and a beer in the other. This done on the mirrors inside, so 18 over. We don't want to shock any ng minds.

gest?
biggest jobs are probably the Shaw ference Centre and Telus Plaza. Those about four days to do.

ourite?
favourite is probably when we do ches—we did the Trailer Park boys The Bear's Halloween Howler, that him. We also did Big Sugar for their farewell concert. We like to take it to the next level.

What makes your work stand out from others?
A lot of people just use tracers, pre-made patterns. We do everything custom, we have more shadows and highlights, there's more depth. It's really the time and effort and hopefully people notice the difference.

Do things get competitive with other painters?
Yeah, it's called crashing. There are only about five of us in town, and we all steal from each other it seems.

Unlike most painters, there comes a time where people actually wash away your art. Does this bother you?
I actually do the clean up. I think of it as performance art, something that's not permanent. I do take pictures for the sales part. It's like a flower, something beautiful for a time. What's the old saying? "The only thing permanent is change?" Ironically, sometimes the painting outlasts the business, and you can still see the painting later in the year.

Why do you keep doing it?
It's a cool medium to work on, it's something on which you can push yourself, try new techniques. You get paid to be an artist, which can't be taken for granted in this day and age. It makes a window look like something different on a plain gray day.

JEFFREY GREENIAUS

SEE magazine

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TOO RIGHT

THE SOFT PROFILE OF THE PALACE Casino employee ("And You Are..." Issue #680, Dec 14) who happily crosses a picket line to go to work, helping to prolong a lengthy labour dispute, does more to sabotage your progressive credentials than being owned by Conrad Black ever did. Are you guys trying to get jobs with the *Western Standard*?

Christopher Spencer

WE, THE EDMONTON INDUSTRIAL Workers of the World, find the latest "And You Are..." concerning as Palace Casino Workers are currently striking. For a newspaper that attempts to present itself as a progressive voice, it is not only hypocritical to profile an individual who is crossing a picket line, but a slap in the face to the many striking Palace Casino workers.

They are on strike for simple things like a safe and clean workplace, a living wage and not being forced to work overtime unpaid. The many problems at Palace Casino are explained at www.itsnopalace.com. We were surprised and disappointed that *SEE Magazine* chose to cross a picket line for the purpose of an article that shed a positive light on a business that has consistently undermined its workers' rights. Crossing a picket line and positively portraying a scab harms the integrity and respectability of *SEE Magazine*. Since when has it been acceptable to cross picket lines and turn your back on fellow workers?

Lisa Barlott and Bryan Roberts
Edmonton General Membership Branch
Industrial Workers of the World

TOUCHÉ

I'D LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WHEN MIKE Hebert writes "our knowledge [of the Maya] isn't complete by any means" ("Journey Into Mel," Issue #680, Dec 14) it's probably because he didn't look into it at all. The Maya are still around, live where they have always lived, and have detailed accounts of their history.

Jon Pelster

HEALTHY CHOICE

THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVE Hancock as Minister of Health and Wellness signals Premier Stelmach is serious about promoting wellness as a key part of his government's health care strategy.

Throughout Hancock's unsuccessful campaign to be Premier, he stressed the need for Alberta to focus on health promotion and wellness rather than just acute care. Hancock talked about prevention of disease, being a healthy society and living in a healthy environment.

On his leadership campaign website Hancock said, "We need to discuss solutions to accessibility, quality, and sustainability before we start debating issues regarding private and public health care practitioners."

In this context, Friends of Medicare is keenly interested in how the new Health Minister will implement Premier Stelmach's commitment to a health workforce strategy, making the health system more productive, and expanding long-term care and improving its standards of care.

During Premier Klein's tenure there were massive layoffs of health care professionals, the blowing up and closing of hospitals and the continuous pursuit of privatization initiatives based on ideology rather than a focus on evidence-based quality of health outcomes.

Klein made it clear that he preferred market-based solutions to public solutions, despite that fact that a majority of Albertans supp public health care because it wi for them.

Albertans are looking forwa getting off the health care roller coaster ride that was the hallma the Klein government.

Sincerely yours,

Harvey W
Coordin
Friends of Med

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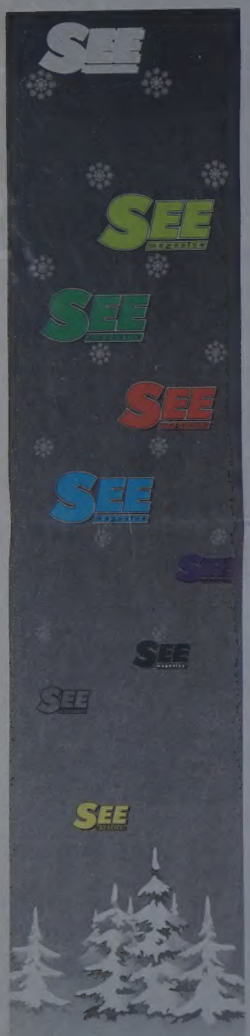

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JEFFREY GREENIAUS

ATURDAY, DEC 16 Santa (Greg Farrants), of the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism, ponders passerby votes on whether Stephen Harper's government has been naughty or nice.

UN WITH NUMBERS, Y'ALL

ERTA: 50 PER CENT MALE, 50 PER CENT FEMALE, ght cent visible minority, and 80 per cent urban, mostly con-trated in two metro areas of over a million folks each. d Stelmach's cabinet: two women, 16 men. All white, and t four from the sticks. We're tempted to re-moniker ady Eddie" "Grossly Out of Touch Eddie," but it doesn't me.

f course, maybe Stelmach's choices—regardless of being ographically suspect—reflect the best picks for the job, y that half of them are rookies with no cabinet experience. wait and see if that means a fresh way of looking at things lot of ranch hands with saddle sores down at the home-d with a dome.

ome appointments are clearly the product of a twisted sense umour: Arch-conservative cowboy Ted Morton as Minister Sustainable Resources! Good one Ed!.

elmach also eliminated the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs ndio in a province with the second biggest Aboriginal pop-on in the country. Looks like Aboriginals, women, visible rities, and the two biggest cities in the province are with-much rep in the cabinet for the next few years. Fortunately, ulnerable rural ridings, the ones that control most of the ange's seats, are sittin' pretty.

APITAL IDEA

MONTON IS A CULTURAL CAPITAL! YIPPEE! em. Okay, so the city's arts community has been abuzz with the news of our being named a Canadian "Cultural al" by the federal government. Thing is, the title doesn't mean anything. Everyone gets to be a cultural capital at some point. Look at the other centers of artistic merit celebrated this year: Comox Valley (BC), Baie-Saint-Paul (QC), and, ahem, Moose Jaw (SK).

Lest we sink into the mire of moribund self-congratulation, let's make sure we put the two million bucks the title comes with to work making our already excellent arts scene truly great.

NEVER SAY "NEVER"

ATTEMPTING TO HEAL THE WOUNDS INFLICTED BY THE residential school system, Canada is set to pay $1.9 billion in reparations. Every First Nations person who attended residential schools is eligible ro receive some of the dough, with additional monies provided for victims of mental, physical, or sexual abuse. The package awaits approval of two more judges before it goes into action.

Phil Fontaine, the grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, told The Globe and Mail, "Never again will such a racist agenda be tolerated in Canada."

A nice thought, but despite all the pretensions Canada has about being a fair and just society, we simply are not there yet.

For a present day example, just look at the treatment of Middle Eastern people in our post-9/11 world. Based on false information provided by the RCMP, Maher Arar, a software engineer and dual Canadian-Syrian citizen, was extradited to Syria by the United States. There he was tortured into false confessions and still remains on terrorist watch lists.

GROW UP, EPS

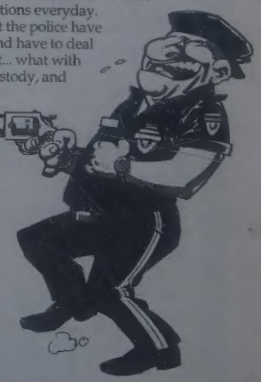
YOU BELIEVE THAT 25 PER CENT OF PEOPLE ARE A waste of skin.

You have wanted to hold a seminar entitled, "Suicide... Getting it right the first time."

You strongly believe in involuntary sterilization.

According to an Edmonton police association newsletter recently made public, the above are all thoughts "good cops" have. It was meant as a joke, black humour for those who face life and death situations everyday.

We appreciate the fact that the police have exceptionally difficult jobs and have to deal with some trying people, but... what with the tasering of suspects in custody, and the Overtime shenanigans, and the "no rats" charm offensive... we could go on... well, to tell you the truth, we were already feeling that maybe there was already enough disdain for the public in the air.



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- Stephen Harper, on who is and who isn't part of the Québécois nation.

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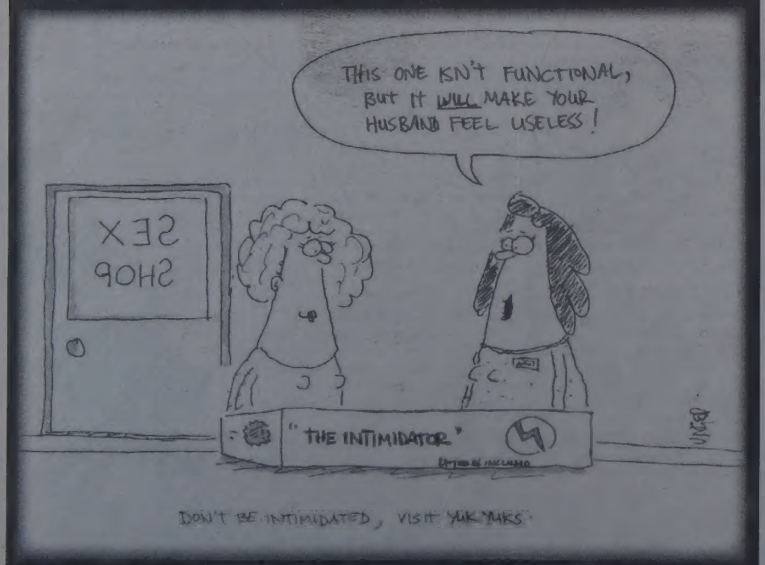

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IN BRIEF

SNIP, SNIP

LADIES—AND GENTILE MEN ESPECIALly—no matter your personal preferences when it comes to the male member, the foreskin is definitely out. According to the World Health Organization, circumcision cuts HIV/AIDS infection rates in half. The early results of two trials in Uganda and Kenya were so positive that doctors stopped the experiment early. Funded by the U.S. National Institute of Health, these results confirm earlier conclusions reached by French researchers in 2005. How circumcision in men affects the spread of HIV/AIDS to women is the subject of their next study, with results expected in 2008. The snip, snip operation doesn't completely protect against the virus though, and UN agencies were quick to add condoms are still a necessity.

ANOTHER BOOMING SUCCESS

IF YOU'VE NOTICED A JUMP IN YOUR rent recently, you're not alone. Rents in Edmonton are climbing, a direct result of low vacancy rates.

Edmonton had the sharpest drop in vacant apartments this year, decreasing by 3.3 per cent to 1.2 per cent, according to a Rental Market Survey done by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Just another kick in the pants, or more accurately the wallet, thanks to Alberta's fantastic, red-hot oil economy.

Bad as that may seem, at least Edmonton's doing better than Calgary. While rents are up 9.9 per cent here in Rivercity, Cowtown's renters are suffering under a 19.5 per cent increase. And while the average two-bedroom apartment in Edmonton goes for $808 per month, Calgarians pay $960 per month.

Torontonians pay an insane $1,067 and Vancouverites a princely $1,0[illegible]. At the other end of the spectrum, two-bedroom apartments in Trois-Rivières go for $488 and in Saguenay for $485.

While the average two-bedroom apartment in Edmonton goes for $808 per month, Calgarians pay $960... Torontonians pay an insane $1,067.

OOOH, SHINY

PUTTING AN END TO THE LOC[illegible] debate around that shiny panelling on the third floor of the old Bay building, University of Alberta architect Len Rodrigues has confirmed—that's the end product folks.

While much speculation has been tossed back and forth (check out www.connect2edmonton.ca) regarding the third floor exterior, that rough zinc paneling is the final product and what was originally envisioned for the historic building. While the material may darken with age, no other coverings will be added.

However, Rodrigues reports that the renovations on the Bay building are surprisingly on schedule and budget.

ANGELA BRUNSCH[illegible]

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The road to nowhere

Transit life fraught with yobs and knobs

COMMENT
EXILE

I HATE EDMONTON TRANSIT. I REALLY hate, really hate it.

I hate the sadistic bus drivers who take off from the station when they're ten feet behind them and the next bus is 30 minutes away.

I hate the stupid ETS planners who advertise improved bus-train connections yet somehow managed to increase my commute by five minutes in each direction.

I hate the curvy, winding bus routes that turn what should be five-minute jumps into 25-minute odysseys.

I am reliant on Deadmonton transit because of my penury (look it up) and consequent lack of a motor vehicle. Actually, given that I work downtown, I would still use the bus newspaper. I turn my MP3 player up (who cares about deafness? I'm worried about irritation) and channel the brighter colours of the spectrum through my mind—not really, but I wish I had that kind of mental discipline. Sometimes, unfortunately, I forget to bring the music, or the battery dies and I've forgotten to pack a replacement. I'm ripped from my cocoon of otherworldliness and thrust into the mundane lives of my fellow passengers, and trouble follows.

I've seen a guy with his schlong out at Coliseum station, rubbing it up against his girlfriend as she talked on a public phone. No one said anything.

On the train weekdays had I a vehicle to avoid outrageous parking [illegible]

However, I am now going to be [illegible] a car every other weekend so [illegible] shop, sightsee, and date [illegible] (Inshallah—look it up) in relative [illegible]fort. I'm sure the sight of me in a [illegible] compact car will cause the [illegible]lation of this city to be seized [illegible] an ungovernable lust, throwing [illegible] the car doors, and tearing at [illegible] clothes, and I will be arrested for [illegible]ding naked.

[illegible]ry to shut out the outside world [illegible] on the bus or train. I close my [illegible] or bury my face in a book or a escape.

Another time I listened while the high school guy behind me described to his friend the incident that had brought about his suspension: "He fuckin' stole my fuckin' smokes and LIED about it. I HAD to bring that desk down on his head." He must have been dating the girl I saw on another bus, another one of [illegible] suspended for beating the crap out [illegible] she saw the two-for-one banner up at Burger King.

I've seen a guy with his schlong out at Coliseum station, rubbing it up against his girlfriend as she talked on a public phone. No one said anything as they passed, though I considered offering a compliment. People smoke, drink alcohol, have fights, vomit, etc. Crazies rant and sing, and bus drivers and transit cops ignore a lot of it, seemingly having given up the battle long ago.

I'm fed up with Edmonton Transit in general, as you can tell. Every time they have their annual conference, I try to register online with no response. They probably cross-reference the list of potential registrants with their list of people who call in to complain, so I don't hold out much hope.

But really, if they have any interest in improvement, I'm the kind of passenger, a heavy transit user on the cusp of car rental, whom they should be interested in.

Maybe next time I'll crash it.

inexileeverywhere@gmail.com

RANT ACID

WINTER RAGE!

In case you hadn't notice yet it's FUCKIN' WINTER outside! Guess what people: it comes every FUCKIN' year. So why do we all of a sudden forget how to drive? Yeah I know, you just got a brand new BMW SUV and I'm sure it's FUCKIN' fabulous in the snow but, honestly, do you really need to drive like a moron and speed past everyone? And I know you think you're soooo cool talking on your goddamn cell phones but, guess what, it takes TWO hands to drive—especially when the roads are icy! And, for god's sake, don't block the intersection while talking on your cell phone when I need to turn left and then look at me like it's my fault. GET OFF YOUR FUCKIN' PHONE and pay attention to the roads. No wonder my mother always told me to beware of other drivers. Go back to driving school if you don't FUCKIN' get it!

Stone Cold

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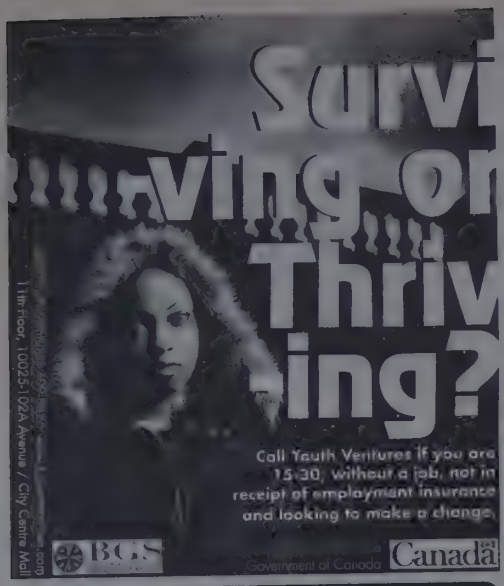

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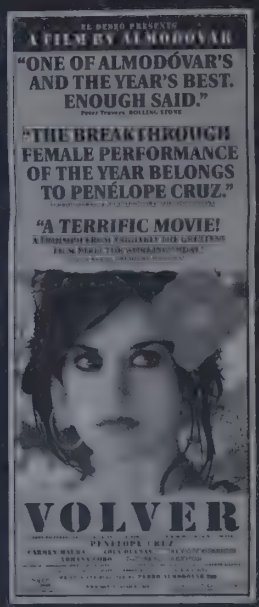

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IN THEATRES DECEMBER 22ND

Old God almost dead

For one brief, shining moment, Alberta was defenceless

FOR A SECOND THERE, WE HAD NO premier at all.

And for the first time in more than a decade, King Klein was simply Ralph Klein. He had just quit live; no one else had even been mentioned yet. Had the Cylons or Americans or Eastern Canadians attacked the steps *just then*, as Mayor Mandel and perhaps 1,000 others in those ugly leather Wrangler jackets looked on, what mad ascendancy would have taken place? Whose eyes would we stare into for leadership as we were "liberated" and "freedomed" from our holy resources? The fleeing Paul Lorieau, perhaps? He could elevate his Zoidberg mic and let us run the show from the crowd—I like it!

Strange thing to think, but this happens as your head freezes and eras, despite months of broadsheet reminiscing and tabloid cocksucking, actually and finally do end. This was the real moment.

HIDDEN NINJA
FISH GRIWKOWSKY

Nervousness. Hidden excitement. Are these the first few ingredients needed for the long reign of Premier Anne McLellan? Yeah, I know. Dream on, fat little wayfarer. Still, we're already in the Halcyon Days, which is a lot different than "approaching and taking credit for them." It's a huge difference.

Right now, the economic classes are being violently hewn—sent to separate corners. Not everybody's excited that this place is getting fucking expensive. In fact, a good majority of younger people don't like it at all.

A few of us watched, I must say cleverly, from a thankful close-up snowdrift that let us peer over the side railings. Slowly, the turkey-assed, lanyard-necked media bandwagoned around us away from their assigned podium, realizing we Statler and Waldorfs had the best seats in the house.

The ceremony was simple, bookended by bearded Ukrainians in trenchcoats singing about God and Jesus, their OG Orthodoxy long abandoned even by Roman Catholics. These soaring, ethnic notes didn't exactly warm the frozen shadow of the Lege, but they made a statement the same way a Dukhobor curling up and dying on your lawn does. You feel the ghost n...

The whole scene felt lik... some distant past, a thin... and stared at by scientists ... cold lab. Something phot... in sepia. Ed Stelmach had ... And just in time for the real ... Budmo! Klein made stran... the whole time, staring u... heaven as if his neck need... ing. Obviously too much t... Wii Zelda, eh, guys?

I watched him for som... reaction; his eyes were closed m... than half the time, as if men... ing the transition would push it ... inside like a turtlehead turd. ... wiped a tear or two as N... Kwong's voice broke and the ... boys made jokes about football ... the weather, about each other.

I have to say I'm going to miss ... casual sense of humour fr... Lege. I will miss Ralph. Old... servatives always have the edge ... when it comes to saying ridiculo... insulting things or even just goo... around—something about ... all the way to the bank and all—... compare that to the nasally elem... tary schoolteacher voices of pro...

> **I'm going to miss this casual sense of humou from the Lege.**

ers with their terrible music acts ... tow. I shouldn't be so mean, but ... there's a reason.

Shit, students used to fill up the ... entire east side of the High Level ... Bridge protesting Klein's deficit ... policies on past frozen days like ... these. Thousands upon thousan... of us.

So what I wonder is: where w... all you former kids to watch Kle... finally go down against his will? ... years, man. You gave up that fig... long ago, didn't you? You don't ... even know what I'm talking abo... Office jobs, two kids, too little ti... There it is. This is what democra... looks like.

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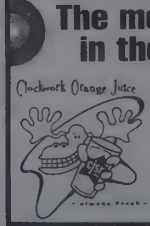

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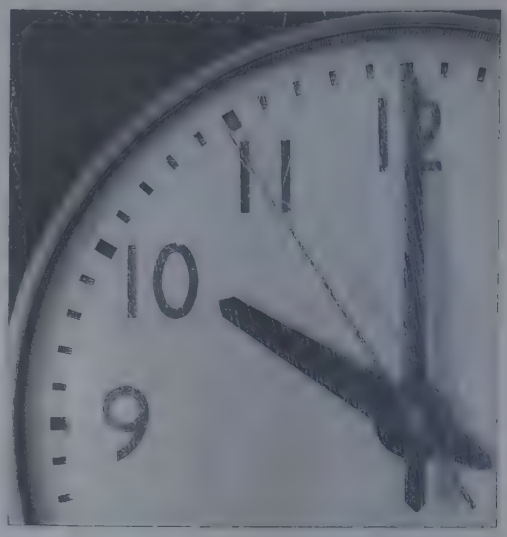


EMBER 25TH. THE ONE DAY IN THE that the city gets as shut down s going to get. The day that n 24/7/365 occasionally turns 24/7/364, or 24/7/364.25, or months.

But, life goes on. Out of milk for ord? Good thing someone's still to sell you milk. Got a new puter that you can't load the dri- for? (And if so, are you still Windows?) Someone's there lp you.

So let's spare a thought for the ple who have to work Christmas , while they share their thoughts the subject with us.

OL SERNA
EMERGENCY DISPATCHER

y do you work on Christmas ?

scheduled to work. I wouldn't unteer to work if I didn't have to. e have a relief pool to pick if someone books off.

w do you feel about working a liday few others work?

mind. If I wanted to and was relief available I could it off. I get days off in the mid- the week where other people

w is Christmas Day different any other day?

sn't. It's a work day. We get calls, and it's no different.

es anyone call you at work to you a Merry Christmas?

do get calls like that. Quite a times it's elderly people and call in and say "oh you guys ing a great job" and want to Merry Christmas. But we've had merous occasions during the here people will call to wish Merry Christmas. It's on our gency line of course.

does the volume of calls com- to any other day of the year?

as busy Christmas Day, volume.

s the craziest Christmas emer- y call you've gotten?

me that sticks out in mind is an calling in and asking how her turkey. There was a outage earlier in the day. She in the morning sometime... we 5:30, she called in around ten as wondering how to stuff the and if she could do it on the use the power was out, at temperature to cook and how long... it was a funny call were flabbergasted. We know if she was serious but in I guess she was. So we had a laugh about that.

s the most enjoyable thing?

ing is freely available.

s the most interesting experi- you've had working on Christ-

n called in because she was naturally labour, so it was to hear that and we (me work partner) were both oh my goodness, a Christ- It was nice

do you do to make Christmas k as fun as it can be? What rates you through the day?

Usually on Christmas Day the squad will set something up. We'll talk about it on the previous shift before the day and we'll plan a potluck because we're there for the day so we still have to eat. So we plan a potluck and everyone will bring something in... and it's the highlight of the day besides 5:30 and going home.

What's the one thing you'd rather be doing?

Anything else. Yeah, well I'm like everybody else. I'd rather be at home spending it with my family and close friends and sitting around laughing and talking. But I'm happy to be there while I'm there... you have to go there and put in your time and do it to the best of your ability and then when it's home time you leave.

BINESH BHAKUR
EMPLOYEE AT MAC'S
CONVENIENCE STORE

Why do you work on Christmas Day?

I am on the schedule. It's a 24-hour store so I have to work. Somebody has to work.

How do you feel about working a holiday few others work?

I don't mind.

How is Christmas Day different from any other day?

It's not different than other days, but the thing is if nobody can work then I have to work. Usually it's busy in the morning but it's getting slower in the evening. After 3:00 it starts getting slow.

What do people usually buy?

Mostly they go for bread, milk, and some groceries. Cigarettes, and you know...

What's the most enjoyable thing about working on Christmas Day?

The customers are happy. If the customers are happy then I'm happy too. That's the day I see people most happy.

Apart from overtime, do your bosses do anything to make it easier to work on a day most people have off?

We get bonuses.

BRENT REID
ETS BUS AND LRT OPERATOR

Why do you work on Christmas Day?

As I get more and more seniority I have the opportunity to take more and more days off. But I mostly choose weekends so most of the weekends I work happen to be Christmas as well. Because of my choice of days off it just works out that way. I don't specifically look to work Christmas Day per say, but it's a nice bonus, as it were.

How do you feel about working a holiday few others work?

Well the city does the best they can to get as many operators off on Christmas Day as possible. We are as closed as we can be and still perform some skeleton service... As far as liking it I enjoy it quite a bit. My wife and I don't have children and the people who travel on the bus that day have a huge amount of warmth to them. They are going where they want to be... it's a wonderful, wonderful route as far as the patrons wanting to be on the bus. It's not because you have to go to work or the mall to get groceries and lug them home on the bus. The mood is much more upbeat on Christmas Day. People are in good spirits and it's nice pleasurable way to spend your day. On the buses you get a chance to interact the entire day and I do miss that somewhat (working on the LRT) especially on Christmas Day.

What's the most enjoyable thing?

The most enjoyable if I had to single it out, is that initial greeting when they come through, you've got certain people that always say good morning or good afternoon or whatever the case may be. But the greeting on Christmas Day is so much more laid back and relaxed when they come through the door. Maybe a lot has to do with my perception but the look on people's faces you can tell it's a different day. Even the people that don't celebrate it realize there are so many around who do that they experience that joy.

Who takes the bus on Christmas Day?

There are some who choose to take the bus. Our regular riders aren't all captives. One of my patrons was a U of A professor, and one year he came out on Christmas Day to just say Merry Christmas and get out of the house a bit. We'll still get the kids going from one friends to another, I still get a cross section it's just reduced

What's the most interesting experience you've had working on Christmas?

I had a young guy on the bus, he might have been pre-teen but I think he was closer to 14 and I think he was from a shelter, but he came out and wasn't dressed for it, and it just happened to be Christmas Day and he sat at the back of the bus and I cranked up the heat up for him and I could tell he was getting warm... and he stayed on and when I made a stop and checked for lost articles and stuff I went back there and asked where he was headed and made a little small talk and I got the impression he wasn't headed anywhere. I just joked with him for a bit and he stayed on for a while... He just didn't want to be with anybody and I didn't want to press it but just let him know that I was here if he wanted to talk. I probably read a lot more into it than there was. But that interaction made me see a bit of me in him and it definitely makes you wonder.

What's the worst experience you've had on Christmas?

I really haven't had a bad one, (but maybe the day I just told you about). The person who gets off your bus and has no place to go, and there isn't anything you can do about it. You can look for the silver lining and hope you did something that made their day a little brighter, but you can only hope.

Have you ever gotten tips on Christmas Day?

Not tips per se... but one guy offered me a bottle of alcohol once. But that was a no-no, I was on the job and it was cash value and I'd have to declare it. We're not allowed to accept gifts of cash value. If someone wants to give me a gift, I tell them a smile and if they really want to buy a gift give something to Santa Anonymous and say it's on behalf of the bus driver. Or stuff for the stuff-a-bus. And most people accept that. I've been offered a cash tip before, but I had to turn it down, so we put it in a donate-a-ride envelope on my behalf, that I can do. The generosity of people surprises me.

RAKESH SHARMA
CORE TECHNICAL SUPPORT
MANAGER, DELL

Why do you work on Christmas Day?

Well, I am a Hindu and do not really celebrate Christmas, so I wanted to let my colleagues celebrate with their families.

How do you feel about working a holiday few others work?

I feel someone has to, so it does not really matter, in fact I feel privileged to be amongst a few who are here to help our customers

How is Christmas Day different from any other day?

From what I understand in the spirit of the season, everyone is motivated to be good to others and that is awesome.

Does anyone call you at work to wish you a Merry Christmas?

Our calls are the same, that does not change, what changes is the volume we receive. Everyone who is working celebrates and wishes each other

What's the most annoying thing about working a day few others do?

Nothing, except that its tough to get a lot done with everyone being away, but then the flip side is that I have a lot of time to work on things that have been on the back burner for a long time

What's the most enjoyable thing?

The peace and the positive spirit.

What's the most interesting experience you've had working on Christmas?

I was really impressed to see the holiday spirit and everyone around me happy and motivated and I could actually feel the positive energy.

What do you do to make Christmas at work as fun as it can be?

Well, we make sure we are walking around, distributing gifts/food, drinks etc....the whole floor is decorated and looks very beautiful.

What's the one thing you'd rather be doing?

Spending time with my daughter.

STEPHANIE CAMERON

Seriously: happy holidays

A little prevention preserves the ho, ho, ho

THE HOUSE THAT ONCE CRADLED four kids, a dog and two parents has been sitting a three-quarters empty for the past few years as careers have lead the children away. But with the holidays coming, the house will once again be at maximum capacity. Almost everyone has a significant other in tow and this year my brother's in-laws are flying in from Australia for their first snow-laden Christmas.

About a month ago, my parents began getting things cleaned, baked, or repaired. Now, with guests arriving any minute, the pace is feverish. Little things that normally wouldn't draw tears: the pressure is on to make everything perfect.

My family may easily be imagining more than a few days in December can really deliver. It can be a waterfall of disappointment, if you demand too much of yourself and the holiday season according to Health Canada. That's why the federal department recently compiled a list of recommendations (a holiday emotional survival guide) for the festive season:

"Take a good, hard look at your expectations."

When the gap between what you envision and what you really have is big, stress awaits.

"Get real."

Figure out what tasks are achievable and the steps needed to get them done.

"Delegate, Delegate, DELEGATE!"

Talk with people you will be spending the holidays with. Identify who is responsible for what and alleviate uncertainty, which drives stress.

"Build a sense of fail-safe achievement."

Ask at the beginning of each day, "What two small things can I do that, no matter what else happens, will make it a good day for me?" Congratulate yourself when you get them done.

"Stick to a budget."

Agree to an overall amount of money with family and friends. If you have a lot of people on your gift-giving list, develop a roster of rotating names for gift giving. While you're at it, plan and budget for one enjoyable experience after the holiday as an antidote to post-holiday blahs.

"Reach out to others."

If you think that your situation is tough, compare notes with friends. You may discover that you're actually coping rather well, and that you can make a helpful suggestion or two.

"Do something nice for yourself."

Take a break. Catch a flick. Take the dog for a long walk. There should be something in the holiday for you, not just for everyone else.

GLOOM BOOMERANG

If the stress of gift-buying, house cleaning, and holiday hosting weren't enough, some people are also trying to cope with additional stresses. For some, the season will underscore existing life problems, like dealing with a divorce or separation, a recent death or clinical depression.

Last week, the Canadian Mental Health Association released the results of a study showing that social pressure, financial stress, raised holiday expectations, an increased feeling of loneliness, increased family interaction and the "commercialization of the winter holiday season" are the top triggers for holiday-related stress and anxiety.

The study also revealed that 76.6 per cent of people who have been diagnosed with anxiety or depression see a return of their symptoms during the winter holiday season. Glenn Thompson, Chief Executive Officer with the CMHA says the results were startling, "We've known for some time that December and January are extremely stressful months, but what we didn't know was how far-reaching the effects of holiday stress would be."

An Edmonton-based social work-er says there's no denying that the holidays draw considerable attention to the challenging parts of our lives.

"It appears that while January to November, people survive with depression but December causes exacerbation of all symptoms—tension, loneliness, sadness, suicidal ideation. Also people become reflective during this season, looking back over the past year. Aren't we socialized to do so with the New Year's Eve thing and everything?! And if they don't have positives to reflect on, this time of year reinforces negatives and hopelessness.

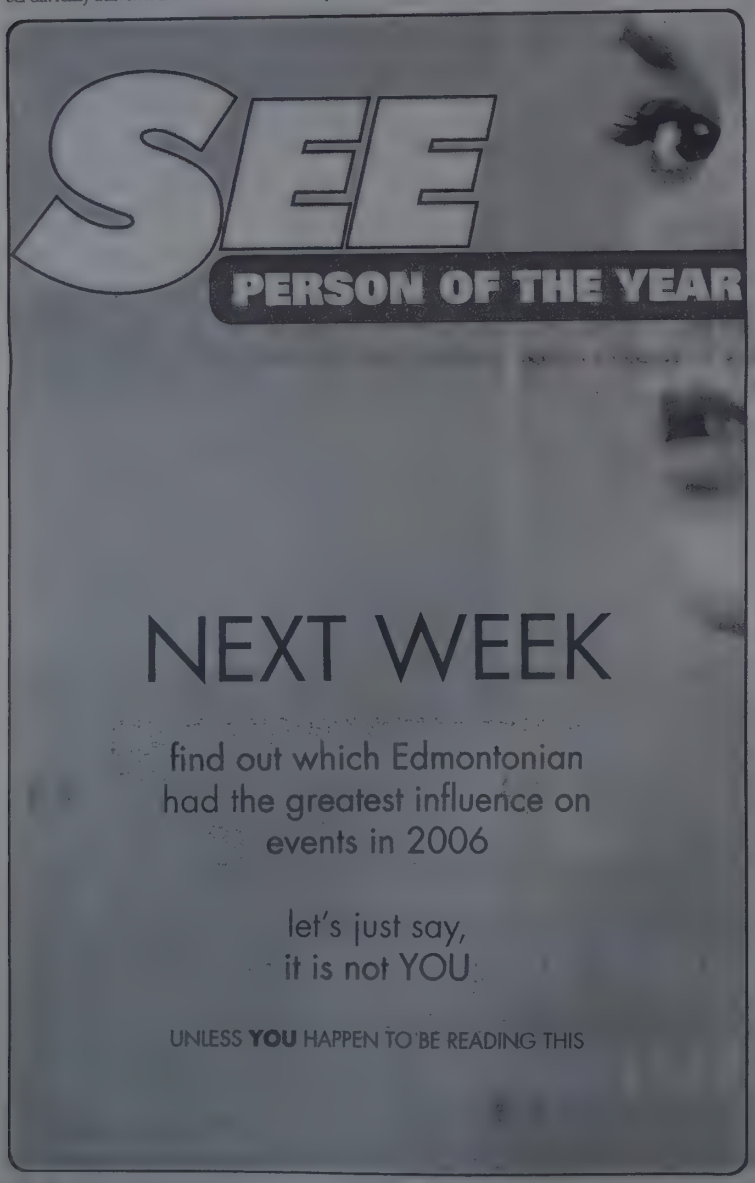
MAKING IT TO NEW YEAR'S

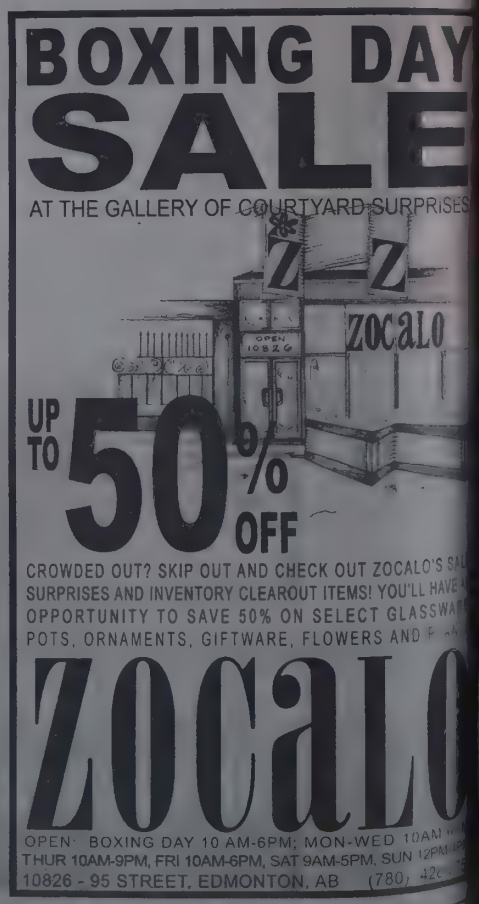
She makes many of the same suggestions as Health Canada but emphasizes the importance of getting out and reaching out.

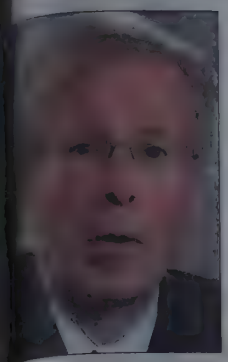
"Everyone wants to feel productive, I know the clients I deal with do, even if it is only volunteering once a month for an hour—connecting to others helps those intense feelings to dissipate somewhat—although not altogether because chronically depressed people will tell you that medication only 'takes the edge off.'

"There are a number of resources in the community to connect with, provide hampers, dinners, etc. Also this might seem only a bandage—is—but if an individual is strong enough to make a connection, it could be a connection that would save their life."

SARAH HOW







RE:READING

JAY SMITH

...LL OUT
...IGNS OF SUGAR PLUMS, VISIONS OF ...ORY. Tis the season for consumption—...the time you read this, it'll be down to the ...ck of pre-Christmas shopping. If you ...ome to the "VISA-knows-best" model of ...ping, then you'll be re-living these next ...ons—financially speaking, for the next ...months.

...ices on **Chapters'** "Save 80% on Junky ...," tables aside—those that largely ...ng to the breed of literature that, remark-...lowers one's intelligence quotient upon ...e cracking—the printed word often ...e more immune to gluttonous inclina-...than other consumer products. In fact, ...the exception of **James Frey**-like literary misadventures, Looks frequently seem to resist reduction to mere items of commercial ingestion.

That said, a few volumes are especially ...courant this year. Consider this your stocking-stuffer spoiler alert.

If you're like us (which, fortunately, you're probably not) you wasted the better part of a weekend glued to CBC Newsworld and its coverage of the Liberal leadership convention earlier this month. How we spent two days devoted to the internal squabbles of a party we don't even like all amounted to Cameo appearances by **Rick Mercer** delighted, **Belinda Stronach** shocked and **Michael Ignatieff** ...

Seriously, though, the drama was swift and defied expectation, especially in the victory of dark horse candidate **Stephane Dion**.

Dion, like former leadership hopeful **Michael Ignatieff**, is a former academic who has published books and articles as academics must. The Liberal Party website, however, lists only one, ***Straight Talk: Speeches and Writing on Canadian Unity***.

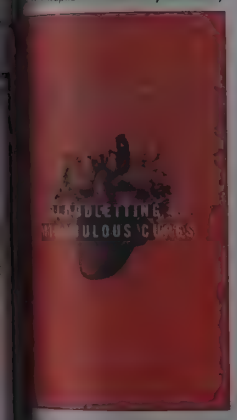
Now, that's a real pot-boiler of a title.

Published in 1999 by McGill-Queen's University Press, ***Straight Talk*** is Dion's only English-language trade publication. Dion wrote it while Unity Minister in Chretien's government; as part of his job, he was required to engage with Quebec nationalists' arguments for separation.

Straight Talk was so controversial a title in Quebec that it could not find a French publisher. McGill-Queen's agreed to do the French, and then received threats.

The Canadian public is so desperate for more information about this geeky, alabaster-skinned potential PM that ***Straight Talk*** is selling out wherever it is stocked.

The publisher told *Quill and Quire* that reprinting the volume is "more a question of how many than if or when."



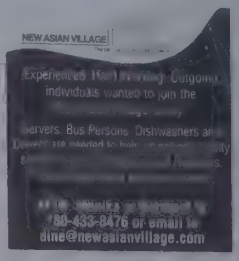
A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

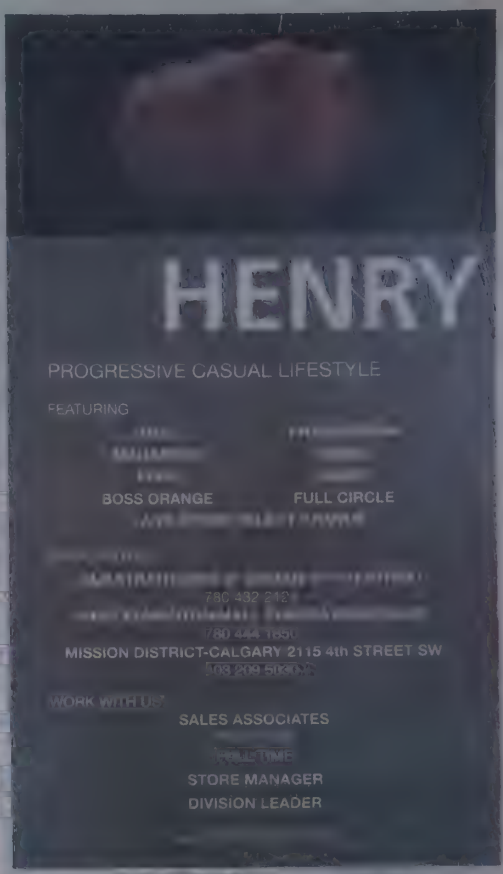
IN OUR REVIEW OF VINCENT LAM'S ***Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures***, we noted the tension between winning a high-falutin' literary award and actually appealing to normal human beings. Y'know, those who read books but perhaps not always "literature."

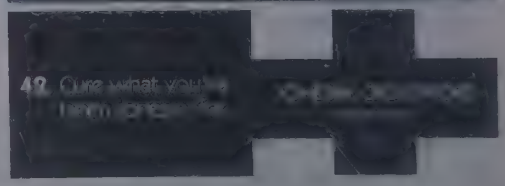
Well, the combination of a "Giller Prize" sticker, praise that doesn't require a dictionary or thesaurus, and a paperback edition that ... itself the ... commitment of further ... means ***Bloodletting*** ...

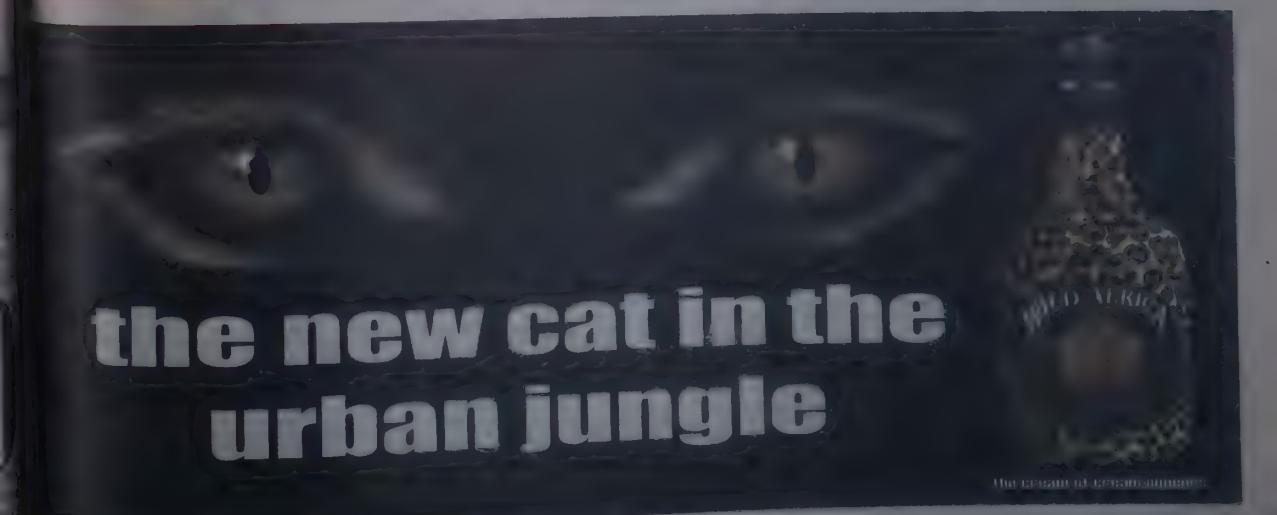
It ... **The Globe and Mail** ... Bookseller ... to Quill and Quire ... exactly what we said ... appeal, ... affordable and people say it's good. Lam is, no doubt working on a sequel ...

reading@sep.greatwest.ca









my look

Name: Gwen Molnar

Occupation: Poet, painter, writer of children's books

Where: My house in Mckerman where we have lived since '75

Describe your Style: Tailored casual, and in essence that is who I am. I was in the N
got used to the look of tailored clothes. Also—if I may say so—Lauren Bacall.

Wearing: I like a plain unadorned look—that is not to say I don't like getting adorned
time to time, but today I chose to wear what I feel good in. I like this dress shirt. I know
good in it. It is actually George's. We bought them years ago from Buyway. They were
each! The blazer is from a great consignment store whose name I can't recall. The pa
shoes, and even the watch are from The Bay. I have had the watch for three years. Th
are all from George. The one he gave me in '64 after I nursed him through a broke
11 weeks, while looking after my mother who was also healing from a broken bone

Into: We read the New Yorker, the *Guardian*, *The Economist*, *Maclean's*, among o
support the Salvation Army: I have known about the Sally Ann since I have know abou
thing. We live with music. I play piano. It is George's music that fills the home, it's wond
like my Stylus Pro 7600 printer: it is not the latest but... I love the Oilers. I love hockey,
my mother—of course she liked Bobby Orr because there were no Oilers at that time.
cise, I like to swim. We love theater, ballet. My daughter TiVOs British crime shows, wh
love. I also love historical fiction and non-fiction, French movies, and international politics

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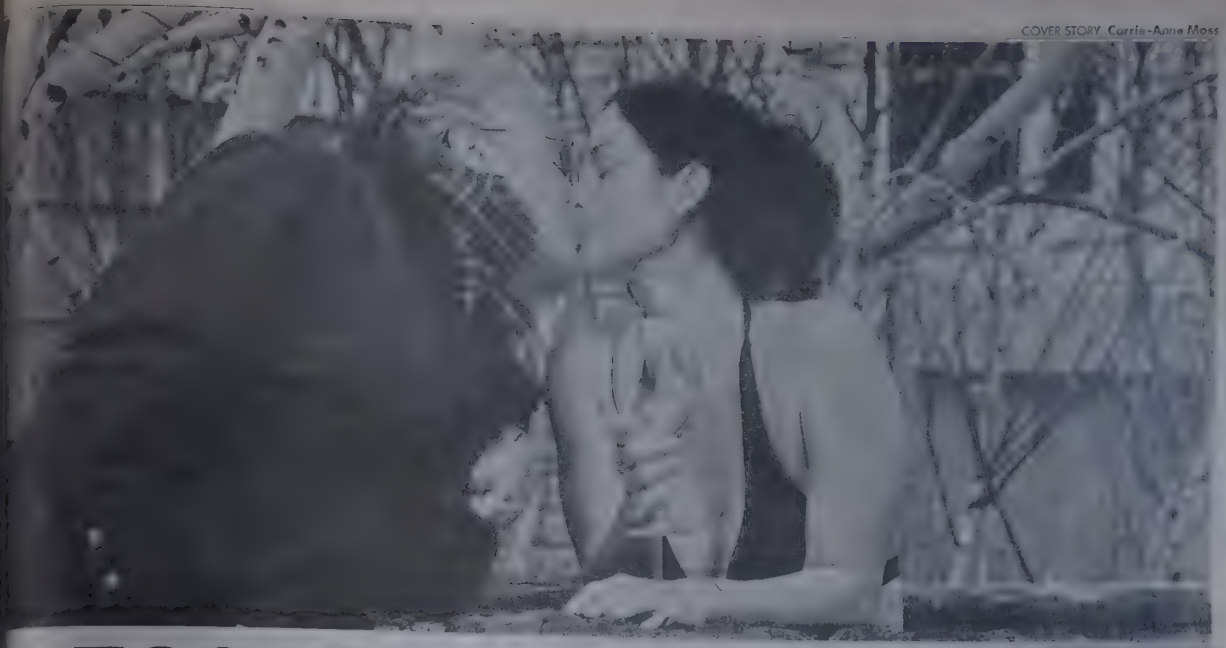


ESCAPING THE MATRIX

Carrie-Anne Moss Enjoys The World's Most Important Job

tory Scott Lingley

Snow Cake, Directed by Marc Evans, Starring Carrie-Anne Moss, Alan Rickman, Sigourney Weaver Opens Fri, Dec 22

n the middle of talking about the actors and directors she'd like to work with some day, Carrie-Anne Moss suddenly draws blank. She knows he's a legendary direc- who recently passed away—they had even cussed working together—but his name just coming. You can almost hear her slap forehead over the phone when the name bert Altman is suggested.

"It's my mother-of-two brain," she explains ove the commotion of her three-year-old who is a little impatient to have his ther's complete and undivided attention. r youngest, another boy whose name she never divulged to the press, just passed first birthday in November and already been an uncredited co-star in not one two of his mother's films—albeit, in utero. Andrew Currie's *Fido*, a quirky zombie ady due out in 2007, Moss's pregnancy written into the script as it became harder guise. But for Marc Evans' *Snow Cake*, a gue drama set in the futuristic metropolis wa, Ontario, the cold climate conferred ks.

"Heavy clothing worked for me. No one ll tell except for me. And it's great when look back, you know, [the film] is kind of epsake of your journey," she says.

"What a pleasure to work pregnant. It was l. fun—not physically taxing at all. I felt the luckiest person in the world to be g what I love and be pregnant at the same because I wasn't sure that could coincide ther. I felt very lucky to be doing the most ortant job in the world—growing a human g—and at the same time getting to play have fun."

Of course, the option existed to just not do ne at all while she was pregnant. Moss en conspicuously picky about the mov- since the success of the *Matrix* which she portrayed Trinity, a PVC-clad asskicker with a soft spot for Keanu Reeves' would-be messiah Neo. Rather than taking roles that reiterate her star-making action role, the Vancouver-born actress has shown a preference for supporting roles in smaller-budget films with strong stories, such as Christopher Nolan's *Memento* and Lasse Hallström's *Chocolat*. Moss says *Snow Cake* and *Fido* met her criteria.

"I really like a good story. Both those scripts really rang true for me as two things I really wanted to do... It became about, do you do two movies that you love, or do you do one movie that you don't love that pays a lot of money? For me, it came down to two movies that I loved. And yeah, it was really about exploring all kinds of different parts for myself, and I feel lucky to be in a position to get to do it.'

Age is no object

In the case of *Snow Cake*, the fact that Alan Rickman—"He's one of my favourite actors," Moss says—and Sigourney Weaver were already attached to the British-Canadian co-production helped her make up her mind.

Rickman stars as Alex, an Englishman fresh out of prison who arrives in northern Ontario to reunite with a woman with whom he has had a son. Alex gives a ride to a young hitch-hiker named Vivienne (Emily Hampshire) and, just as the young woman's ebullience begins to crack his morose demeanour, they have a terrible road accident that leaves Vivienne dead and Alex twice as mired in guilt and self-reproach. By way of atonement, Alex pays a visit to Vivienne's mother, Linda (Weaver), whom he discovers is a high-functioning autistic woman. Alex begrudgingly consents to stay with Linda until after Vivienne's funeral, which allows him time to become romantically involved with Maggie (Moss), a free-spirited woman whose laissez-faire attitude toward romantic coupling has made her something of a local scandal.

"I wasn't sure I was necessarily the right person to play [the role], but I thought I would make it my own," she says. "What I did with the role that wasn't really on the page was that I made her a lot softer than she was written. I think it would have been easy to play her kind of harder, and more, you know, that sexual sort of vixen that has that strength and a hardness to her. It just didn't ring true to me. So I think I ended up playing her with a lot more warmth than maybe would be expected, and yet it just felt right, especially working with Alan—it just evolved into that for me."

> **"I think it would have been easy to play her kind of harder, and more, you know, that sexual sort of vixen that has that strength and a hardness to her. It just didn't ring true to me."**

On-screen chemistry can be a tricky thing, particularly when there's a 20-year age difference between the people involved, but Moss said her trust in and rapport with her co-star helped make their movie relationship believable.

"It was just effortless to fall in love with him in the world of the movie. He's a wonderful human being," Moss says. "There was no age [issue]—it wasn't about that. It was about two people showing tremendous respect and love for one another in the world of what we were doing, and I think we felt really comfortable with one another and that really came through."

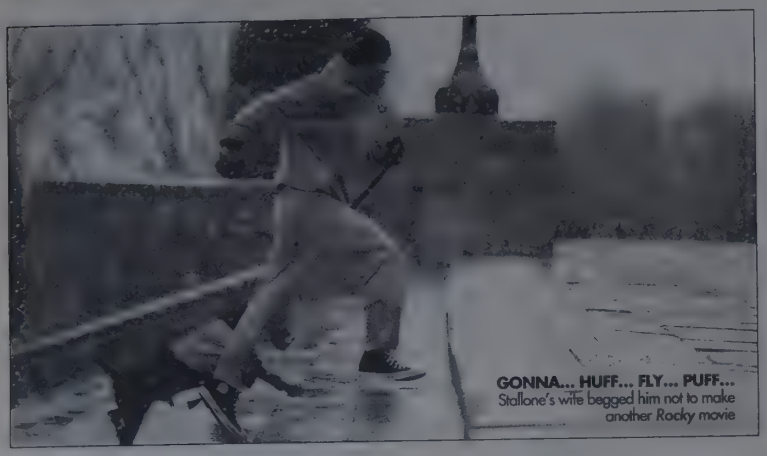
Spare the treacle, spoil the audience

The much trickier relationship in the movie is between Alex and Linda, whose household runs on her compulsive sense of order, her attraction to sparkly things and her love of bouncing on her trampoline. Screenwriter Angela Pell drew on her own experience as the mother of an autistic child, and Sigourney Weaver modeled her character on Ros Blackburn, an Englishwoman with autism from whom she borrowed some of Linda's mannerisms and affinities.

Moss says one of *Snow Cake's* greatest strengths is its refusal to sentimentalize Linda's peculiarities or make her disability seem somehow cuddly.

"What I really loved when I read it is we hear about autism all the time in the news and we all know people who have children that have been affected by it, but we very rarely hear what happens when they grow up, how do they live their lives when they're older?" she says.

"I liked that [Linda is] this human being that's so complicated and could say what she wanted so completely and had no censorship about how she communicated that. It was never about manners or how she said what she needed—'put your arms around me, but don't hold me too tight' and 'please stop hugging me now, don't talk to me now.' To have that kind of ability to express yourself without any kind of filter is difficult, and yet beautiful, and that's what I really took away from working on the movie."



GONNA... HUFF... FLY... PUFF... Stallone's wife begged him not to make another *Rocky* movie

Stallone earns TKO

New *Rocky* wears down your defences

ROCKY BALBOA
Directed by Sylvester Stallone. Starring Sylvester Stallone, Burt Young, Geraldine Hughes, Milo Ventimiglia, Now Playing, ★★★★☆

IN 1975, A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN Sylvester Stallone wrote a screenplay entitled *Rocky*, the story of a small-time boxer who gets a shot at the big time. He shopped it around to several major studios, but no one was interested. When United Artists, a small-scale production company, agreed to make the film there was one condition: a major star had to play the lead role. Instead of being overjoyed that a studio wanted to make his movie, Stallone refused to sell the screenplay unless he was cast in the title role.

Eventually, the studio gave in, *Rocky* went into production, and Stallone's determination paid off handsomely. The film was a major sleeper hit, connecting with audiences around the world, earning 10 Academy Awards nominations (including a Best Actor nomination for Stallone) and going on to win three of them (including Best Picture and Best Director). The film also launched Stallone's career into the stratosphere, whilst simultaneously thrusting the name "Italian Stallion" and the phrase "Yo, Adrian" into the public's consciousness.

Thirty years later, much has changed. Stallone, at one point the highest paid actor in Hollywood, finds himself a "has been," having seen his beloved character turn into a joke as each progressive sequel found Rocky more and more cartoonish and more and more unintelligible. "It's Rocky vs. Mr. T" or "It's Rocky vs. the Russian" or "It's Rocky vs. Someone—I'm not sure who because I can't understand what he's saying." When I first heard they were making a Rocky VI, I feared it might be "Rocky vs. the Terrorists." Luckily for Osama Bin Laden, this is not the case, because the 60-year-old Stallone still finds himself in excellent physical condition.

TIMES A-CHANGIN'

Rocky Balboa catches up with Philly's favourite son mourning the death of his wife, Adrian, who succumbed to cancer a few years prior. He visits her grave frequently and has opened a restaurant in her name.

Unsure of how to move on, Rocky spends most of his time at the restaurant happily recounting his glory years to starstruck customers who come in to eat and catch a glimpse of the former heavyweight champion, or with Adrian's brother Paulie (Burt Young) reminiscing about his lost love and about how their golden years aren't exactly golden.

To make matters worse, his relationship with his son (played by Milo Ventimiglia, best known from TV's hit show *Heroes*) is strained because Rocky Jr. feels as though he can't escape his dad's legendary shadow, and his budding romance with his new friend Marie (played convincingly by newcomer Geraldine Hughes) is complicated by her teenage son.

It appears that the "Italian Stallion" is now just Italian.

Meanwhile, the current undefeated heavyweight champ, Mason "The Line" Dixon (played by former light-heavyweight champ Antonio Tarver) is uninspired, unable to find a meaningful opponent. When sports network ESPN airs a computer simulated match-up between Rocky vs. Dixon, debate erupts over who would actually win the match and interest is generated in something the real thing.

NO ROPE-A-DOPE

This paves the way for the final act of the movie, kick-started by an inspirational workout montage (AKA the "money shot" of the franchise) that actually made the audience I saw the film with erupt with applause. This filled me with multiple glee, and I too was overcome with a strong sense of nostalgia. Cue "Eye of the Tiger."

The formulaic, predictable sometimes plodding plot of *Rocky Balboa* works, and there's much satisfaction watching the aged underdog get back into shape, drinking cups of raw eggs and running up the same steps he made famous in the first film.

The 16 years that have passed since *Rocky V* seem to have done Stallone a world of good, and we find him refocused and in touch with what made the first film and the character so great. He delivers a surprisingly moving and heart-felt performance.

While a couple of monologues are too earnest and sincere, there's an interesting parallel that runs underneath the film that connects Stallone to Rocky in a way we haven't seen before; both are long past their prime, pursing dreams that most people consider ridiculous, but it doesn't matter if they win or lose, it's about trying.

"It doesn't matter how hard you can hit, what matters is how hard you can get hit, and keep moving forward," the champ says to his son.

As writer and director, Stallone manages to orchestrate the ultimate comeback, not only for his beloved creation, but also for his ailing career. He's made a film that brings Rocky's journey full circle, making this last visit worthwhile.

NATHAN CUCKA

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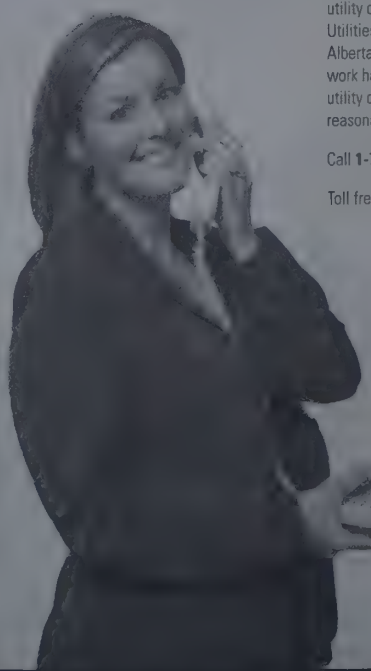

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PICK OF THE WEEK

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THE WORLD'S BEST MUSIC STORE

Franco: Still dead?

Almodovar's latest damaged family evokes Spain's factured past

VOLVER
...by Pedro Almodóvar, Starring ...ope Cruz, Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, ...Cobo, Opens Fri, Dec 22, ★★★★½

...WILL BE THOSE WHO WOULD ...that Pedro Almodóvar's new *Volver* is primarily about Pene... voluptuous figure. Not ...think it's about Franco.

...al Francisco Franco died in ...t about the time when ...was starting to make ...films. By the time Almodóvar ...ally hit his stride—his first ...e came out in 1980, his first ...national success was in 1982—Franco era seemed well and ...over, with Spain on its way to ...ery. The monarchy had ...ned from exile, the government ...day had declared an amnesty, ...general agreement seemed ...the immortal words of John ... don't mention the war."

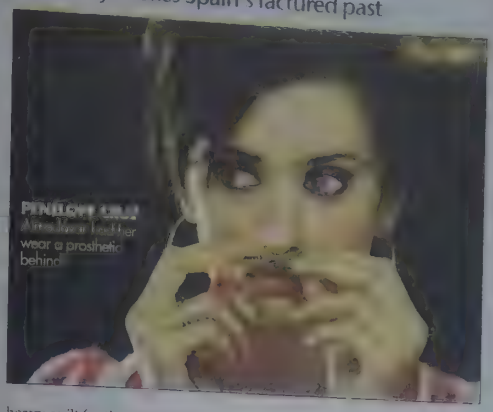
...urse, Almodóvar's tales of ...errorists, drug-addicted nuns ...azpacho-slurping women on ...rge of nervous breakdowns ...different story. It may have ...a normal country in the ...s, but Almodóvar's Spain had ...pretty wild instability always ...just beneath the surface.

...not trying to suggest that this ...his films are all political alle...of a post-totalitarian state; ...goofily egg-headed ...that sound? But come on. A ...y emerges from 40 years of ...rule, and then tries to con...itself that everything is OK ...you think that the emergence ...mmaker preoccupied by the ...concealed insanity of middle-...ie might have a little some...to do with that?

...er is set in 2003. That was not ...y year for Spain. The news ...s that sometimes appear in ...n are filled with coverage of ...est fires that swept through ...untry during the summer of ...

...plot itself revolves around a ...r fire that devastated the fami... film's protagonist. 2003 was ...e year that huge numbers of ...graves from the civil war were ...rcovered, all over the coun...es burned throughout Spain, ...e dead seemed to rise from ...graves. And the country went ...h some pretty serious trauma ...heir shared guilt for their ...pain, guilt that they had, ..., been hidden from the ...y for several decades.

...'s *Volver* about? As fires ...roughout Spain, a young ...(Lola Dueñas) becomes ...ed that her mother (Carmen ...) has risen from the grave. ...mother has some pretty



heavy guilt for the pain she was involved in, pain that had been hidden from the family for several decades.

Her sister (Penelope Cruz) finds herself repeating the cycle of violence and repression, although with a slight variation. She tries to cover over the fact that her teenage daughter had killed her husband when he tried to rape her. For much of the film the husband's body is in the restaurant where she tries to make a new start; she finally buries it near a river that is much beloved by the family.

In short, the evidences of the violence that was committed by good people who were just trying to protect themselves from the abuses of authority figures was covered up in plain sight, really for anyone to see if they had bothered to look.

Gee, I wonder if that might have something to do with the excavation of mass civil war graves?

Now don't get me wrong. *Volver* is also very much about Penelope Cruz's voluptuous figure; one shot of her cleavage taken from a camera that seems to be in the rafters of the ceiling makes that pretty darn clear. And generally, its narrative is really about the emotional lives of women. Indeed, the more moving from-the-rafters-image comes during the funeral of the sisters' beloved auntie (Chus Lampreave), when old woman after old woman elbow each other out of the way to bestow kisses of condolence on Dueñas.

The film is filled with the kind of impossibly rich, feminine performances that Almodóvar alone seems capable of extracting from actresses. It's also characterised by a combination of visual lushness (and it sits very easily alongside the best Almodóvar films in terms of its vivid use of colour) and wind-blown sparseness (which has echoes in the small and run-down village where the film is set but also in the performance of Blanca Portillo as the sisters' gaunt cousin).

Indeed, *Volver* has a pleasantly working-class feel to it, giving an incredibly detailed portrait of the everyday joys and sorrows of proletarian Spanish life. In these ways, of course, the film has nothing to do with Franco.

It is, instead, a typically accomplished and sophisticated Almodóvar picture, and probably one of his best. He is clearly a master of melodrama, and is now inarguably operating at the very top of his form.

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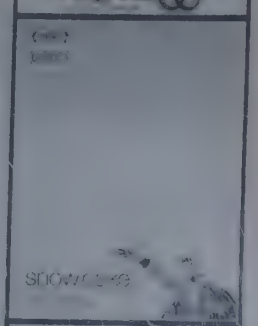
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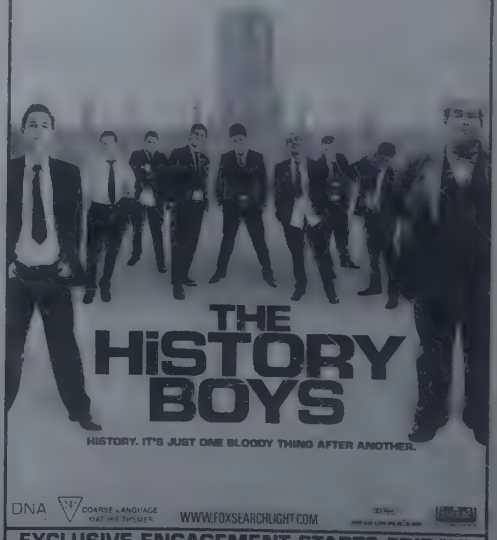
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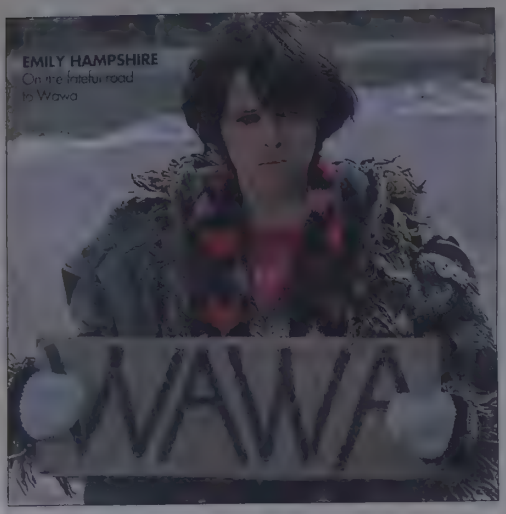

EMILY HAMPSHIRE
On the interior road to Wawa

S'no fake

Big-name Canadian film finds the line between moving and maudlin

SNOW CAKE
Directed by Marc Evans, Starring Alan Rickman, Sigourney Weaver, Princess Theatre, Opens Dec 22, ★★★½☆

ALL THE ADVANCE BUZZ SUGGESTS that Marc Evans' *Snow Cake* is a film about a woman with autism. Given the way that most movies treat people with disabilities, this might be a reason to stay away from it, lest one be inflicted with another cutesy, quasi-mystical retard with a lot to teach us all about life and love.

Thankfully, *Snow Cake* is a film about surviving grief and loss that just happens to feature a character with autism. What's most striking about the film is how deftly it balances its heart-wringing premise with humour, to the point where it doesn't seem entirely apt to categorize it as a drama.

Alan Rickman's terminally pained expression is deployed to maximum effect in his portrayal of Alex, a reserved Brit who has just arrived in northern Ontario with some very heavy baggage indeed. As he informs the chatty Vivienne (Emily Hampshire), a young hitchhiker who has insinuated herself into the passenger seat of his rental car, he's just been released from prison for killing a man. Vivienne, who is voyaging to Wawa to visit her mother, is undaunted by Alex's admission and proceeds to pry a little laughter out of him. Their rapport, however, is cut short by a speeding semi that broadsides Alex's car and kills Vivienne instantly.

Seized with grief and survivor's guilt—the accident was not his fault, after all—Alex stops in snowbound Wawa to apologize to Vivienne's mother, Linda (Sigourney ... but not only does Linda appe... pletely unaffected by her daut... death, she seems entirely pl... pied with the assortment ... toys that Vivienne was br... her. Despite her obsessiven... where his shoes are placed a... which parts of the hous... enter, Alex ends up staying ... Linda so that he can atten... enne's funeral and, at her ... take out the garbage the follow... day.

Alex learns from Maggie (Ca... Anne Moss), one of the neighbo... that Linda actively shuns, that ... is autistic, which explains why ... rather eat snow and bounce o... trampoline than mourn the dea... her only child. While Alex warm... to the freewheeling Maggi... Linda evolve an unusual fri... that brings each of them a lit... ther out of their respectiv... states.

Snow Cake could easily ... the way of so many mad... da features that endeavo... uplift out of dire or dra... tional situations and com... and over-sweetened. Bu... about the way its low-budget p... work together—from its muzz... shot-on-video images th... whole film an intimate ... immediacy to the natural blen... humour and pathos it stri... apt incidental music by ... Social Scene—keeps *Sno*... lurching into maudlin territo... ther does it stretch its oblig... romantic subplot beyond belie... parameters.

Having big stars also seems ... work in the film's favour. If the ... fortunes that have brough... his current miserable state f... contrived, Rickman's per... brims with genuine anguish. Th... kind that can't be dispelled by ... on the lips from a beautiful supp... ing actress.

Likewise, Weaver hits just th... right notes as Linda, who is to... ensconced in her own mental ... and unable to give people th... tional cues on which polit... depends. And Moss finds the ... turing heart within Maggie the ... tramp without injecting any sa... rine. I was disappointed to see ... lum Keith Rennie, as the driver ... the fatal truck, allotted such a ... gre portion of screen time, but ... haps one man's profound gr... adequate to power such a sm... movie.

SCOTT LIN...

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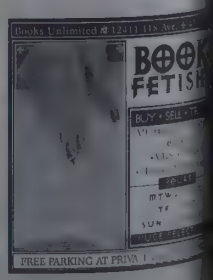

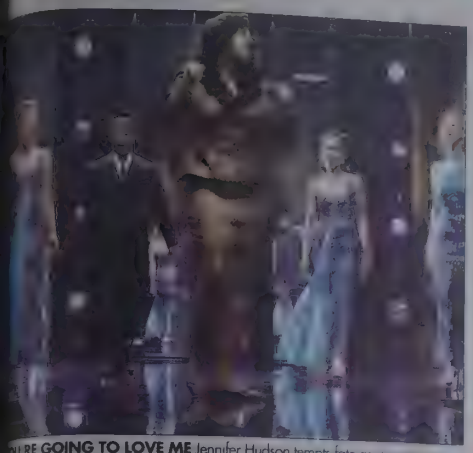

U RE GOING TO LOVE ME Jennifer Hudson tempts fate as she kicked g the family hug

ew temptations here

uch hyped *Dreamgirls* less than supreme

AMGIRLS
ed by Bill Condon, Starring Jamie Foxx, nce Knowles, Eddie Murphy, Jennifer son, Opens Mon, Dec 25, ★★★☆☆

YEAH OH YEAH!

hen the lights go down on *amgirls*, you feel that little charge: him coming to the boil, glimpses mething moving in the dark, es of colour. Something's going ppen... it's about to start...

re going to see a show!

hen the R & B busts out—you gine it might have done on stage e Apollo—you get caught up in ribe and think maybe you could n love with this movie.

t then *Dreamgirls* falls in love itself instead. It sags under a ot questionable taste and sap, g to tell a story bigger than its ers can squish compellingly into hours.

he story is that of Motown emo Berry Gordy and of the emes—so wonkily veiled that it ally makes the film's blemishes l out. *Dreamgirls*, which ted on the Broadway in 1980, cus the fascinating cultural phenon and cauldron of egos that Motown to a finger-deep wade the life of upstart impresario is Taylor, Jr. (Jamie Foxx) and ansformation into a self-cen- l bigwig. (Heeyyy... isn't that ghly the same character Foxx d in *Ray*?)

lly Curtis parlays his Cadillac skills into record production marketing, but when a surefire stolen out from under him by -performed race records, he es to play like the big boys and ment his A & R skills with pay-

eanwhile: although Curtis con- s the rise of his Rainbow label and parcel of the the civil rights vement, he foments friction with- ale trio The Dreams (née ettes) by demoting too chub- l too black lead singer Effie fer Hudson)—his significant by the way—in favour of svelte, more white-friendly n (played by the Diana Ross of eneration, Beyoncé Knowles). u can probably sketch in most plot points after that, which is someone does a little drawing around the points, but they don't It's not just that the story doesn't dig deep—it's got too much history to get through: must keep moving!—it's that it erases gritty elements of the source story. Florence Ballard died in poverty at 32 after being supplanted by Ross in the group Ballard had started. You won't be surprised to learn, given that Broadway prefers triumph to tragedy, that there will be no dying for Effie.

Nor, indeed, for Jennifer Hudson. The famously spurned *American Idol* contestant is being hyped as Oscar material. (The *Dreamgirls* phenomenon doesn't want for hype.) It's true that her mercurial Effie makes humiliation hurt so good, but when Hudson—confusing screechy hyperventilation with emotive power—belts out the patented *Dreamgirls* showstopper "And I Am Telling You I Am Not Going"—you may find yourself wondering what it would take to make her change her mind.

Title-wise, "And I Am Telling You I Am Not Going" seems to reflect as much potent imagination as "I'm Just Going to Grab Some Milk: Back in a Sec." Broadway may once have been the ground zero of American songwriting, but it's becoming a factory of same-sounding melodies delivered with uncontrolled firepower—chutzblah, if you will. The ballads are particularly off-putting, to say nothing of their staging: you begin to feel like a guest at a wedding where you don't know anyone—everyone's heartfelt speeches sound particularly precious.

It's not all downside: the movie looks nice and flashy, smartly cataloguing changes in American style in fashion, art, and marketing from the '60s through to the mid-'70s. If only the music had been similarly faithful.

Maybe you don't care about that. Maybe you love it Broadway-style. Well then you might enjoy the glitzy but rote *Dreamgirls*, but even you will find it difficult not to cringe when the film climaxes with a moment of recognition so supa-extra maladroit, you can hardly understand how the same filmmakers were responsible for the electrifying opening.

KEVIN WILSON

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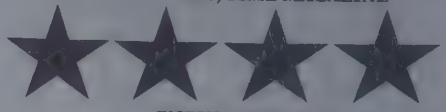

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Some nearly ok movie

Charlotte's Web means well, but...

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
Directed by Gary Winick, Starring Dakota Fanning, Julia Roberts, Dominic Scott Kay, Now playing, ★★★☆☆

IT'S A DICEY PROPOSITION, FILMING AN adaptation of our beloved childhood classic. It must be spectacular, but also able to touch our hearts as E.B. White's words did. The book, after all, is rife with solemn lessons about altruism, friendship, and death. To see those things glossed over and made into chintzy Hollywood frippery would be a travesty. It has to be a success, on the scale of Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings*.

The creators of this live-action version have obviously taken that responsibility seriously, hiring an A-list cast and painstakingly recreating the sets in the image of wholesome, Midwestern America as depicted in the simple line drawings in the book. Director Gary Winick is interesting, having directed charming, witty films such as the *Tadpole* and *13 Going On 30*. All the pieces are there to preserve the original spirit of the novel, all the reverence to the text is palpable. Nevertheless, it fails.

This in spite of a cast, like I said, that reads like a Hollywood power player roster. Sweet Dakota Fanning, who continues to be poised and delightful, is Fern Arable, the little girl who saves the runty piglet Wilbur (portrayed by several dozen of the most deliciously cute young porkers) from the axe. Julia Roberts is the spider.

The rest of the farm animals are likewise a who's-who: Stever Buscemi as an animated Templeton the rat (perfect!), Oprah Winfrey and Cedric the Entertainer as the geese, John Cleese as a sheep. Robert Redford claims a bit part (a bit part!) as a horse, and Sam Shepard is [illegible] tor.

The heart of the book is [illegible] small-town family that us[illegible] "didn't question the order [illegible] things," overcomes its ord[illegible] for one summer when Fern [illegible] rescues an animal that n[illegible] siders worth saving. Th[illegible] mals, who previously each [illegible] their own kind, band [illegible] common cause, which [illegible] turns out to benefit them al[illegible] creation of community awa[illegible] and solidarity.

The implications in an A[illegible] that appears to embrace [illegible] ingly mean-spirited social [illegible] ism are obvious, and then [illegible] appear to be any attempt to sof[illegible] pedal those lefty values here. Talk[illegible] ing animals always make the soc[illegible] ism go down, in the most squea[illegible] inducing way—and we mean the [illegible] audience here, not the wee pig[illegible]

But I can't quite put my finger [illegible] why the movie doesn't total[illegible] It can't be the animals. Fern [illegible] lovely Arables. Maybe it's the [illegible] Charlotte—the other animat[illegible] acter—keeps blinking. Spiders d[illegible] have eyelids, silly! But more to th[illegible] point, maybe *Charlotte's Web* was never meant to be a film in the fir[illegible]

Talking animals always make the socialism go down, in the most squea[illegible] inducing way—and we mean the au[illegible] ence here, not the wee piggies.

place. We lose the pacing of a ch[illegible] ter-a-night bedtime reading of th[illegible] novel: two hours from birth t[illegible] even for a spider's lifetime, seem[illegible] rushed. Wilbur is supposed t[illegible] from piglet to pig during the cou[illegible] of the story, from innocence to knowledge to wisdom. But his w[illegible] remains that of a 10 year old. It's [illegible] shame, because one of the gre[illegible] things about the book is that [illegible] admits that we all are destined t[illegible] grow old and die someday.

MARI SAS[illegible]

OINK! Perky pig ponders particular pundit's point.

42. Cure what you've been jonesin' for.

JONESIN' CROSSWORD
by Matt Jones

nnui can be dull

e Children captures the boredom of home life

E CHILDREN
ed by Todd Field, Starring Kate Winslet, Wilson and Jennifer Connelly, Opens c 22

E LATEST HOT TOPIC AMONG FEMINIST ters—although we have won the choose whether or not we stay home ur children, life as a stay-at-home par- n be boring. The miracle of mother- and more specifically, spending your alone with a pre-schooler while d in a suburban castle can be lonely edious, and damn it sister, you n't be vilified for saying so. Or, at so say legions of newspaper columnists lk-show guests, as does the premise of r Todd Field's latest film.

Field's last film *In the Bedroom*, *Lit- ldren's* plot is driven more by emotion by actual events. In fact, the script on a novel by Tom Perrotta, who co- the script with Field) features barely gnom. Over more than two hours, virtu- nothing happens, save for a few juicy sex scenes

The film follows two central characters—a bookish stay-at-home mom named Sarah (played by Kate Winslet, who Field has turned into a "normal-looking" housewife by denying her hair conditioner or eyebrow tweezers) and Brad (Patrick Wilson), a dreamy stay-at-home dad who is depressed over his failure to become a lawyer. Sarah is married to the wealthy, but stiff Richard (Gregg Edelman), whom she catches with his nose buried in a pair of used panties he bought off the Internet. Brad is househus- band to the beautiful but overly critical Kathy (Jennifer Connelly). Brad and Sarah start hanging out with the kids at the local pool and before long, their relationship leads them to the bedroom

Little Children is full of beautiful imagery, and with the help of an odd male narrator, Field captures a mood that shifts between fairytale and suburban ennui. While the con- cept of a story rooted in loneliness and fear of monotony is thought provoking, Field never quite gets the film off the ground

While a delicately handled subplot about a neighbourhood pedophile adds some tex- ture, Brad and Sarah's affair is not interes- ting enough to carry such a long movie. Since they feel little passion—like all the characters in the story, they seem drawn together out of convenience and desperation rather than actual love or even lust—they aren't that compelling to watch

That sense of detachment and boredom is probably what Fields is aiming for, but a successful atmosphere does not necessarily make for a successful film. It is possible to make a movie about the mundane without the film itself becoming dull, but Field didn't quite manage to pull it off

ELIZABETH CHORNEY-BOOTH

ursuit of Oscar

ith climing Academy ladder in *Happyness*

UIT OF HAPPYNESS
ed by Gabriele Muccino, Starring Will Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, Thandie n, Now Playing, ★★½☆

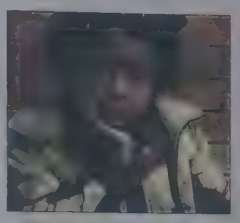
SMITH HAS MADE A PROMISING ion into feature films, playing a gay e in *Six Degrees of Separation*, or mmad Ali in Michael Mann's excellent hich earned Smith his first Academy d nomination for Best Actor). He's also d as a believable action star, playing dinary man in extraordinary situations emy of *the State*, *Independence* Robot, etc.

n the get-go, it's obvious that *The Pur- Happyness* is a calculated opportuni- tement Smith's status as one of Ameri- st dramatic leading men. It's the rags- es tale of Chris Gardner, a loving who through a string of bad luck and ies of missteps, hits rock bottom, mes homeless, and yet somehow finds determination and to train as a stockbro- while raising his young son on the streets n Francisco.

Reagan's America is in an economic cri- sis, but apparently the American dream is still alive and well: all you need is to do is "work for it." In pursuit of that dream, Gard- ner risks his family's future by pouring all their savings into equipment that he intends to sell to hospitals all over the Bay area Unfortunately for him, the equipment is con- sidered a luxury and no one's buying

As his debt deepens, Gardner's wife (the normally excellent Thandie Newton, strange- ly performing over the top here) abandons her loving husband and son. But determined to create a better life, Gardner holds firm to his dignity, faith, and his independence. Though under-qualified, he's hired as an intern stockbroker: six months of training, at no pay.

Eventually, Gardner and his son (played by Smith's son Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, who is surprisingly not a bad little actor) are evicted and bounce back and forth between shelters and subway bath- rooms. Just when things look like they might improve, bad things make his struggle to achieve his dreams all the more difficult, and



unfortunately, more unbelievable

Apparently the film is "inspired by a true story," which means that most of it has been exaggerated or manipulated to make Gard- ner's journey more dramatic. *Pursuit of Happyness* has so many potential Academy Award clip moments that I became hyper- aware of how hard everyone was working to create a film worthy of winning the little gold statue

Smith's heartfelt performance makes the film watchable and seeing him act with his real life son adds an interesting dimension to his performance, as you truly do see the love that exists between father and son. Unfortu- nately, it all seems too calculated, making his inevitable rise to the top unsatisfying.

NATHAN CUCKOW

ight *Night*

est low-effort Stiller flick is all FX

T AT THE MUSEUM
ed by Shawn Levy, Starring Ben Stiller, Williams, Owen Wilson, Carla Gugino, Coogan, Dick Van Dyke, and Mickey ey, Opens Fri, Dec 22, ★★½☆

EL AS IT MAY BE TO POINT OUT THE s of age afflicting an old-school Holly- ooper, in the case of Mickey Rooney s performance as one-third of a -like team of geriatric security guards er do wells in *Night at the* , it's unfortunately a necessity. His what appears to be a talking testis n the fires of hell has the potential e some serious psychic scars.

ough perhaps there's a lesson to be here: just as Gollum became his self in his singular pursuit of the Rooney's alarming visage can buted to a physical toll paid for ing fame from a 50-year string of ed ham-bone mugging.

hat's not the worst of it: Robin is in this thing, too—in full painfully made

Luckily, he's not around much either. Ben Stiller, somewhat balancing the above freak- ishness with a bland run through his lines, acts as our tour guide through yet another film ultimately about nothing more than the marvels of computer-generated imagery. Leading up to the parade of digitally ren- dered elephants, statues (including an Easter Island-like deal that talks like the Cookie Monster—yet another horror), dinosaurs, etc, the not-so funny man plays Larry Daley, a divorced father who's a bit of a dreamer/schemer of the failed variety. He takes a job as a security guard at the Muse- um of Natural History in a bid to introduce a bit of stability to his wallet and his kid's life

But whoa—every night an ancient curse turns all of the displays into. . computer graphics run amok.

Now Daley has to contend with warring factions of Huns (life-sized), Mayans, cow- boys, and Romans (from the more manage- able mini-dioramas; Owen Wilson and Steve Coogan make semi-comedic turns as the leaders of the latter two), a playful T-Rex skeleton, and a Mrs. Doubtfire-ish Teddy

Roosevelt (Williams, of course).

Truth be told, the effects are pretty good, and as tempting as it would be to rip further into this rather empty film and talk about the increasingly diminishing returns of children's entertainment, in all honesty when I was kid all you had to do to keep me happy was plop me down in front of something (any- thing) animated or with monkeys (Tony Danza's *Goin' Ape* being a particular fave) and I was happy. This movie has both—plus the simian in question pisses on Stiller.

As such, they'll probably love this. And you? Well, you'll just have to hunker down and bear it. 'Tis the price you must pay for propagating the species. Merry Christmas.

ZOLTAN VARADI

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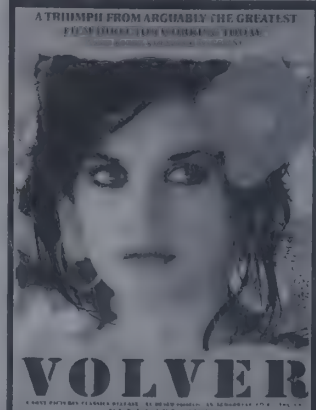

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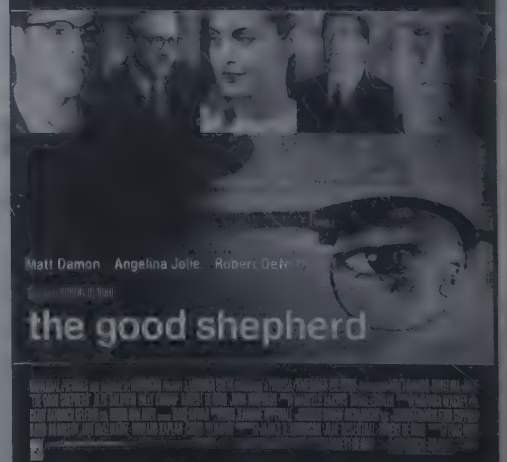

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capsule film reviews

Babel The supplemental title to Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu's latest film should be *When Bad Things Happen to Everyone*. The director of *Amores Perros* and *21 Grams* offers another multinarrative, the pieces of which interlock in oblique but apparently meaningful ways to reveal how we're all connected, especially when we hurt, once again pick away at the false sense of security that our social structures and our undeserved sense of privilege afford us, to show how quickly all that can be wiped away by cruel fate. The parallel tragedies invoked to explore this terrain, however, seem as false and poorly integrated as the wads of putty applied to make Brad Pitt look a normal middle-aged male. Babel seems bloated rather than informed by its welter of weighty ruminations. ★★★☆☆ (SL)

Blood Diamond Fisherman Solomon Vandy (Djimon Hounsou) is pressed into service picking diamonds out of a muddy river where he's mistaken for a rebel fighter and arrested, but not before hiding a sizable diamond. Former Rhodesian mercenary Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio) smuggles diamonds from Sierra Leone and neighbouring Liberia to a diamond cartel in London. Solomon's diamond is his ticket out of Africa. The usual plot inconveniences are taped together in the usual careless way, but the film's primary failing is that it keeps the action "over there." If director Edward Zwick really wanted to rub people's faces in it, he would have shown where the diamonds actually go—say to the fingers of women in white dresses in cities like Edmonton. ★★★☆☆ (KW)

Bobby In *Bobby*, writer and director Emilio Estevez speculates on the assassination of Bobby Kennedy in an ensemble piece, where the impact of his death is related through the fates of nearly two dozen fictional characters present at the legendary Ambassador hotel the night he was killed. It doesn't actually reveal a lot about Kennedy, his life, ideas, or even why someone would want to kill him. While Estevez demonstrates an impressive ability to coax good performances from actors one normally wouldn't even suspect of talent, *Bobby* doesn't quite clear the park. There's attention to detail, lending a credible atmosphere, numerous entertaining moments, but, frankly, not enough Bobby. ★★★☆☆ (LL)

Borat: Cultural Learning of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazahkstan Sascha Baron Cohen's peculiar genius: going out into the world posing as gormless characters, brushing up against the powerful and the ordinary and using his cheerful ignorance to expose the latent bigotry, hypocrisy, and idiocy of total strangers. Cohen is a walking special effect, so completely ensconced in mock-cluelessness that no amount of hostility will discourage him from perpetrating ever-greater abominations of etiquette, cultural sensitivity, and decency. Just when you think that he can't milk any more novelty out of his racist, sexist, homophobic, crude and patently dumb alter-ego, Cohen ups the ante, compounding outrage with outrage until there's a solid chance you might wet yourself. Far and away the funniest movie of the year. ★★★★☆ (SL)

Casino Royale *Casino Royale* follows James (Daniel Craig) to several exotic locations as he tracks down the main villain of the film, a banker to international terrorists, Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen). Director Martin Campbell has delivered a fantastic action film that relies more on suspense and intrigue than the over-the-top gadgetry of past Bond films. Casino Royale reinvents Bond. He's a lean, mean, cold-hearted, womanizing, professional killing machine. Here we are presented with a real, complex, and brooding man, who doesn't always win. This is a Bond that is rough around the edges and he's all the better for it. ★★★★☆ (NC)

The Departed Matt Damon is a cop working for Martin Sheen and Alec Baldwin. Leonardo DiCaprio reports to Irish mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson), whose thoughts are scarcely troubled by human feeling. Unfortunately, this Martin Scorcese remake of a Hong Kong action classic gives the actors little to play with. So even though Damon is really working for Nicholson and DiCaprio is really a mole for the cops, and even though Nicholson gives a great performance, this trip to the outskirts of the darkside doesn't impress. ★★★☆☆ (MH)

Fast Food Nation Co-written by author Eric Schlosser and director Richard Linklater (*Slacker, Waking Life*), *Fast Food Nation* takes hard-hitting reportage and creates a plausible and convincing narrative sure to upend even the most jaded of cinemagoers. The cast, a who's who of independent and mainstream cinema, features Greg Kinnear as the well-meaning but impotent fast food executive and Bruce Willis as his menacingly power-hungry colleague. The frontline associates at "Mickey's" are teenagers just as likely to rob the joint as they are to show up on time for their shifts. The gruesome final scenes of the killing floor in a meat plant are deeply disturbing. This is not an escapist Hollywood romp, but a scathing examination of what goes into our food. (RM)

Flicka *Flicka* is a curious hybrid, one that follows the blueprint of the girl and horse and a dad who just doesn't understand genre. Instead of drowning the proceedings in cloying clichés, they have grounded the timeworn plot with a bracing dose of reality, while keeping the family-friendly tone intact. Alison (Matchstick Men) Lohman's Katy McLaughlin is a realistic, free-spirited, and unsentimental 16-year-old who whiles away the hours at her stuffy Laramie, Wyoming private school with daydreams of running her family's ranch. *Flicka* rises to the occasion, as wild as advertised, a fresh and intelligent family adventure. ★★★★☆ (MH)

The Fountain In Darren Aronofsky's *The Fountain*, Hugh Jackman stars with Rachel Weisz in parallel stories spanning three centuries. Though not emotionally charged and metaphysically compelling, that's not to say it doesn't look astonishing. For a movie spanning three disparate epochs, it has remarkable visual coherency. The players, too, are remarkable. However, it focuses so claustrophobically on the principle pair that it leaves the reality they live in only lightly shaded in. A little humour wouldn't have hurt either. In the end, The Fountain becomes so fixated on its grand themes that it fails to convince on a human scale. ★★★☆☆ (SL)

Manufactured Landscapes A lovely piece of work by director Jennifer Baichwal following photographer Edward Burtynsky, whose landscapes fuse the pastoral with elements of our disposable culture. Baichwal seems to feel a little trapped by her subject, but she is to be applauded for getting this fascinating photographer's work out to us. Burtynsky paints pictures that are the antithesis of the prescriptive sentimentality we are used to seeing. At the heart of the film lies the reality that China is a nation rapidly becoming an urban society, making the film worth seeing just to catch a glimpse of the likely heir to the American Empire. ★★★★☆ (TK)

Marie Antoinette Sofia Coppola's biopic is frustrating, because it's difficult to see past the admittedly luxurious and glorious surfaces. We're supposed to get that Marie Antoinette—uneducated and only a teenager when she ascended the throne of France—was a woman of excess amidst the already extravagant excesses of court life, and we are meant to think about this story in the context of modern times, but she makes us work so hard to glean any point from the movie, it always feels like we're projecting our desire for a point onto it, excusing the film rather than allowing it to speak for itself. ★★★☆☆ (MS)

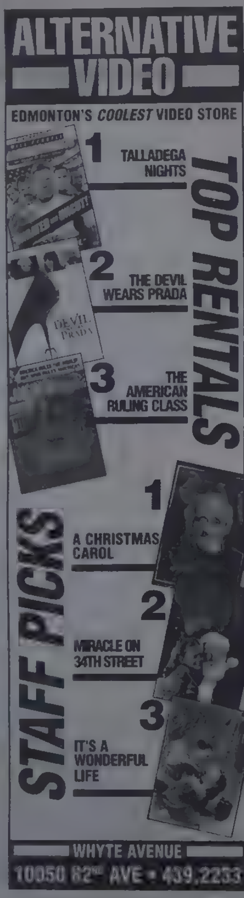
National Lampoons Van Wilder 2: The Rise of Taj In this film, we find-Taj Mahal Badalandabad (Karl Penn), fresh from his wacky adventures at an American college in the first movie, arriving to attend school in England. He, of course, becomes enemies with some stiff-upper-lip meanies and joins a fraternity of misfits whom he leads, of course, in a triumphant ascent from social nothingness to campus heroes. However, not even the actors here seem to, well, act. They just lifelessly utter stale jokes about boobies and other matters somewhat related to sex. ☆☆☆☆☆ (ZV)

The Nativity Story *The Nativity Story* has set biblical cinema on its ear. Jesus' mother (Keisha Castle-Hughes) must deal with a Nazareth populace skeptical about divine conception when a woman's supposed to wait a year even after marriage or face stoning, the angel Gabriel and prophecy notwithstanding. But she's got the support of cousin Elizabeth (Shohreh Aghdashloo), future mother of John the Baptist. And new husband Joseph (Oscar Isaac) is a tower of quiet strength as he and Mary make the hundred-mile trek to Bethlehem. With the family audience in mind, the reverent Nativity is refreshingly free of guilt-driven Gibsonian violence. Only the portrayal of the wise men as comic relief jars. ★★★★☆ (MH)

The Queen This is undeniably a classic two-hander about the Elizabethan monarch and her advisor, yet there's something not quite on about the idea of a film on the present monarch. In the 21st Century we ought to have got over our strange fascination with hereditary power and privilege. Frears' film seems altogether too soft and reverential, though it masquerades as a pithy critique of all things royal. This is a film that, for all its scenes of Elizabeth doing "normal" things like drinking tea, answering telephones, weeping, and swearing has no interest in determining whether the members of the monarchy are really "just like us." ★★★☆☆ (CN)

The U.S. vs. John Lennon Despite the title, this documentary is not primarily about the long legal battle Lennon fought to stay in the U.S. but is a piece of agit-prop that desperately wants to say, "activism en masse brought down one criminally-inclined, wire-tapping, civil-liberties-revoking president mired in an unpopular and unwinnable war, and it can done again." One can't help but feel stirred and/or angered by the footage of speeches and protests. A different film, yes, but one that doesn't assume we're too dumb to explore the issues, opting instead, as is done here, to inspire change through the celebrity hagiography of another era. ★★½☆☆ (ZV)

Reviewers: Nathan Cuckow, Mike Hebert, Scott Lingley, Roberta McDonald, Celia Nicholls, Mary Sasano, Zoltan Varadi, Kevin Wilson



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POLITIC LIVE
Raising awareness on new record, *Adaptation*

Food for thought

Hip-Hop For Hunger to make us eat our "rap vegetables"

HIP-HOP FOR HUNGER
Feat. Politic Live, Touch, Oozeela, K-Riz, Details, Proveli Paragon, Emcee E, and Freshly Squeezed, Fri, Dec 22, Starlite Room (10030-102 Street), 9 pm, Info: 428-7827 or , $10 ($8 with non-penishable food donation)

DIAMOND-FLASHING PIMPS AND JIGGY hoes. Velvet-lined rides and ritzy shades. According to Ian Keteku (a.k.a. Emcee E), mainstream rap is simply an all-you-can-eat buffet filled with chocolate-smothered brownies and high-calorie cream puffs nowadays.

Now what would mom have to say about that?

Well, for one thing, she'd agree with Keteku when he says that too much dessert isn't good for you. And although the multi-tasking University of Alberta Political Science student and spokesperson for Edmonton's fifth annual *Hip-Hop For Hunger* strives to fill the stomachs of those in need this holiday season, he also hopes to school Edmonton's hip-hop fans in the art of healthy musical eating.

"[Rap's] like any good meal," Keteku says as he nibbles on a robust meal consisting of vegetables, rice, shrimp, and beef. "You've got to have your meat and potatoes, you've got to have your vegetables and you can have some dessert, but it seems like all we see right now in the mainstream media is the dessert. What *Hip-Hop For Hunger* does every year is it brings out a bit more of the meat and potatoes, a bit more of the vegetables and, of course, some of the dessert.

"I find myself more of a vegetable MC," Keteku jokes. "The stuff that I

talk about, the lyrics that I perform are very socially conscious and very political. Sometimes I talk about racism, sexism, and what have you, and these are issues that definitely need to be covered in society."

BOOM AND BUST

This yearly battle of the beats expects to raise—and possibly surpass—3,000 lbs of food for the Edmonton Food Bank, but social causes aside, *Hip-Hop For Hunger* also hopes that local artists and performers—such as Politic Live, Touch, Oozeela, K-Riz, Freshly Squeezed, and Emcee E himself—will draw some attention to Edmonton's music scene.

Because Edmonton and Alberta are in the midst of an economic boom, more and more people are becoming homeless and ending up on the streets. And for Keteku—who's also an Anti-Racism Educator for the Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations and the Program Coordinator for the Edmonton Immigrant Services Association—events like the *Hip-Hop For Hunger* are a great way to for artists to put their talents to good use, all the while deconstructing the negative preconceived notions the mainstream portrays of night club shootings and young black culture.

"A lot of organizations and musicians don't find that connection, that they can use their talent and art for socially conscious causes," Keteku says. "An artist like Oozeela from the Dominican and the Caribbean comes with very socially conscious lyrics, stuff that you won't hear on mainstream radio. Touch is an MC that really brings it back to the underground, to the roots of lyricism. It's not that hoes and bitches stuff you hear on the radio. That's not what hip-hop is about.

"But also, [*Hip-Hop For Hunger*] is for the people," Keteku continues. "We hope to accomplish a great party so that people can get the awareness, check out the local acts and have a good time while their at it."

LABOUR OF LOVE

The idea of *Hip-Hop For Hunger* came from the cousin and friend of Politic Live's Arlo Maverick (AKA Marlon Wilson). After hosting the first one in Vernon, BC, the idea was brought out here to be taken over by Maverick, who says he took hold of the reigns simply because his organizational control-freak side kicked in.

"It's one of those things where you get satisfaction out of it in the end," Maverick says. "I don't mean for that to send corny or anything, but you go through the weeks of actually preparing it, promoting, going out and handing out flyers, putting up posters, and things like that. And when you get to the end, it's cool to see the labour of your work."

Maverick's looking to spread the event to Vancouver, Saskatchewan, and Red Deer next year, as well as turn it into three-day event featuring forums and showcases. That way, mouths and minds across Canada will find one sort of nourishment or another.

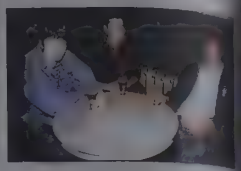
"No matter where you go, hip-hop will be focusing on the negative rather than the positive end," Maverick says. "To me, I think this event shows that what the community as a whole can do. I hope the event will continue on for years to come.

"Who knows how long it will go for? Because once you start, it's hard to finish."

AMANDA ASH

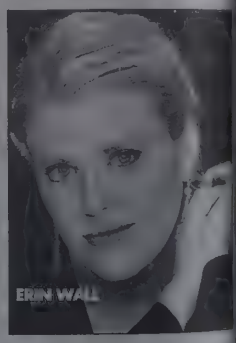
FOOD BANKED
- In 2002, HHFH raised 390 lbs of food
- In 2003, 950 lbs of food
- In 2004, 683 lbs of food
- In 2005, 1,125 lbs of food
- This year's goal is to raise or surpass 3000 lbs of food
- The event has raised 3,150 lbs of food to date
- 2006 Much Music VJ Contestant Nathalie Morgan will be hosting 2006's HHFH
- All participating acts have taken the initiative by donating 20 non-perishable food items each

HOT TICKETS
MUST-SEE SHOWS

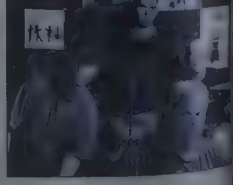


CITY STREETS, HOT PANDA, THE LAST DEAL
■ *Fri, Dec 22, New City (10081 Jasper Ave.), 8:30 pm*
Edmonton's craziest-touring meets the [illegible] est-trying meets the edgiest-riffing [illegible] times!

NOTEBOOK MAGAZINE LAUNCH
■ *Thu, Dec 21, Velvet Underground (10030-102 St.), 8 pm*
AA Sound System, Radiovacana [illegible] Factor, and Christian Hansen get the [illegible] together to celebrate the launch of [illegible] ton's new quarterly magazine, Notebook. Drink and be merry!



HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*
■ *Thu – Fri, Dec 22 – 23, Winspear Centre (4 Sir Winston Churchill Square), 8 pm*
The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra puts the divine on stage, with conductor William Eddins leading his musicians from the harpsichord and vocalist Erin Wall reaching for the sky... A classical tradition not to be missed!



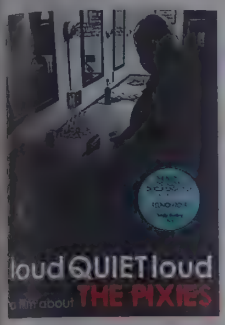
BLACK BERRY TRAFFIC
■ *Wed, Dec 27, Sidetrack Café (10238-104 St.), 9 pm*
Still hungover and feeling full of stuffing? Need a little no-nonsense rock to clear your mind? These Edmonton rockers should chase the Boxing Day blues away...

Help is on the way

Last minute CD/DVD gift ideas to save your ass with fam and friends

SO MUCH TO DO AND SO LITTLE TIME! Oh crap! What are we to get for little cousin Willy or for aunt Hilda? Surely, everyone appreciates getting a little music at Christmas time? Of course they do! But where to begin? Well, gathered a few last minute ideas for everyone on your list—because we really want to help you have a safe and sound Christmas...

COMPILED BY FRANÇOIS MARCHAND, EAMON MCGRATH, TOM MURRAY, AND PROSPER PRODANIUK



For Your "Indie-Til-I-Die" Thirty-Something Friend:

■ The Pixies, *loud QUIET loud* DVD

First, there were the Pixies, and then there were... the Pixies. Your friend was the first in line for the reunion tour ticket sale, the first at the front singing along and crying, and the first at the merch table for the live bootleg. If life begins and ends with the Pixies—and if you're not afraid to see a really overweight Frank Black do phone interviews in his boxer shorts—you'll definitely want to get your friend the DVD documenting the coming-back-together of one of the most important indie rock acts of all time. A surefire hit. (FM)

For Your Twelve-Year-Old Brother Who Thinks Simple Plan is Punk:

■ *American Hardcore: The History of American Punk Rock 1980 – 1986* CD

Taking you on a road trip to a time when music was really, really underground, where your weekends consisted of sniffin' glue and bloody noses, and where your friends had names like Darby Crash and John Doe, *American Hardcore* reconnects you with what makes youth so great and what makes music so powerful. All the big names are here—Bad Brains, D.O.A., even Battalion of Saints—and upon listening, there's nowhere you'd rather be than in a dirty club in Washington, D.C., or Los Angeles circa 1982. Every true music lover I know grew up on this stuff, and when you hear the passion, intensity, and commitment from all the bands on the comp, you'll finally understand why hardcore was real and hard core mattered. (EM)

For a Niece Who Makes Her Mother Worry About Her Late Nights:

■ Ministry of Sound, *The Annual 2007* CD or DVD

Bring the rave home for her with Ministry Of Sound's 12th yearly review. *The Annual 2007* collects the year's biggest pop club anthems for a booming disc of trance (Tiesto, Kleinenberg) and house (Armand Van Helden, Kaskade). (PP)

For the First Cousin Who's Stuck in the '80s:

■ George Michael, *Twenty Five* CD or DVD

He's mostly noted for substance abuse and solicitation issues these days, but Michael is still a hit-making juggernaut. The 44 songs spread across this triple-CD compilation include massive hits ("Careless Whisper," "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go"), unreleased numbers ("Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"), and other rarities. (TM)

For the Gangsta Groovin' Youth Who Needs the Thug Taken Out Of Him/Her:

■ Zion I and The Grouch, *Heroes In The City Of Dope* CD

Evoking the Dream Warriors and the early days of De La Soul, Zion I and The Grouch's *Heroes In The City Of Dope* is probably the most positive hip hop album around. Slip them in your stereo and they'll start smiling, rushing out to buy old funk records while the nihilism melt away. (PP)

For the Family Dylanologist:

■ *Dylan Speaks* DVD

The hour-long, televised press conference from 1965 where Dylan entertains and bewilders the media and a few local celebrities (Allen Ginsberg, promoter Bill Graham) with quips, non-sequiturs, even a few straight answers. Clips have been seen in *Don't Look Back* and *No Direction Home*, but this is the whole deal, dry spots and high points and all. It's Dylan on the cusp of his electric career, with an excellent sense of chain smoking and declaring WC Fields, Smokey Robinson, and Charlie Rich to be his favourite poets. (TM)

For the Oh-So-Hip Son Who Needs His Music *Pitchfork*-Approved (8.2!):

■ Luomo, *Paper Tigers* CD

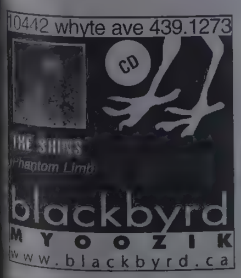
Poppy enough to become a guilty pleasure, experimental enough to save face with friends, Luomo's *Paper Tigers* is the soundtrack to all of those techno nights (no, not raves) that he's been going to. (PP)

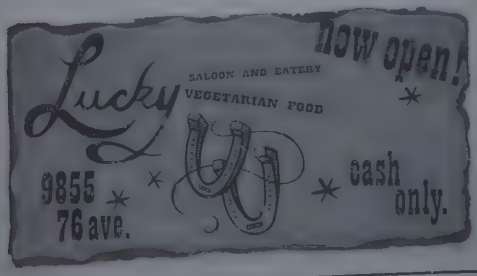
For Your Classic Rock-Inclined, Country-Lovin' Godfather:

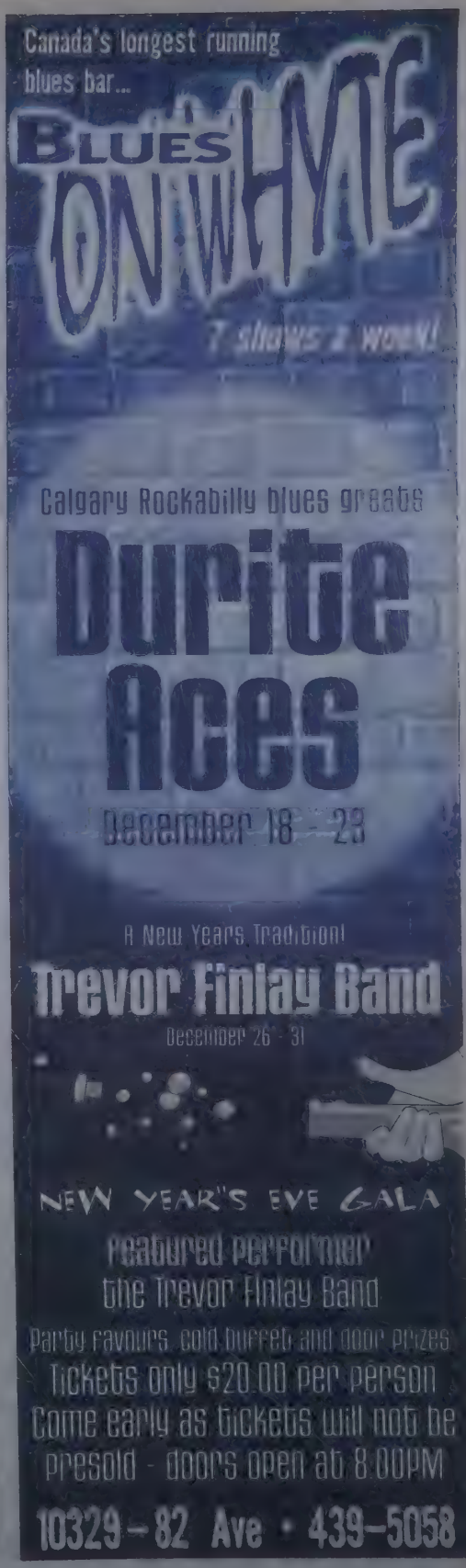
■ My Morning Jacket, *Okonokos* CD, DVD, or vinyl box set

Alt-country rockers My Morning Jacket surprise everyone by making a double-live record in the most classical sense—superb

See CD/DVD, page 30







SEE it Live!

Starlite Lounge
429-1080 10030-102 ST.
DECEMBER 22
HIP-HOP FOR HUNGER
POLITIC LIVE
TOUCH
K-RIZ & EMCEE-E
& GUESTS
DECEMBER 26
BOXING DAY SOUND CLASH
DJ EDIT
OF GLITCH MOB
DECEMBER 29
ED RUSH
OPTICAL
SLIM PICKENS VS PHATCAT
& GUESTS

jeffrey's café
9640 142 St.
780.451.8890
DECEMBER 22
ANNA BEAUMONT'S
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT

THE URBAN LOUNGE
8111-105 St. 439-3388
DECEMBER 21
SEPTEMBER STONE
SLIVER
MISSES MISSILE
DECEMBER 22-23
MOURNING
WOOD

THE ATLANTIC TRAP & GRILL
DECEMBER 22-23
ACOUSTIHOLICS
DECEMBER 27
DUFF
ROBINSON

Metal City
429-2562 10551 Jasper Avenue NW
DECEMBER 22
CITY STREETS
TO THE TEETH/
TO THE HILT
HOT PANDA
THE SECRETARIES
DECEMBER 23
SATURDAY SUCKS
XMAS PARTY
SATAN CLAWS
CAPITAL CITY
BURLESQUE
DECEMBER 31
NYE BASH

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND
780-428-1099
DEC 21
NRMLS WLCM
DJ NIK 7
XMAS PARTY
DEC 22
NOTEBOOK MAG LAUNCH
HECTOR FECTOR
CHRISTIAN HANSEN
AA SOUND SYSTEM
RADIOVACANA
DEC 23
THE SHITTY
GIFT EXCHANGE
DJ GENERIC
KHALIB

Blue Chair Cafe
9624 - 76 AVE
(780) 989-2061
DECEMBER 21
RHONDA STAKICH
JESSICA HEINE
DECEMBER 22
NORA BUMANIS
DECEMBER 23
JIM FINDLAY

THE STUDIO
THE HARDTAILS
THE NIGHTSTALKERS
PROFUNDA ROSA
THE FIREBRANDS

12464-153 STREET · (780) 424-8467
CASINO
YELLOWHEAD
DEC 22-23 KORY WLDE
7855 ARGYLL ROAD NW · (780) 465-5377
CASINO
EDMONTON
DEC 22-23 PARTY OF FOUR

CD/DVD

Continued from page 29

artwork, no-nonsense and non-stop rockin'. For the really hardcore album collector, pitch in for the vinyl box set. Old school! (FM)

For the Mod Cousin:
■ The Who, *Live at the Isle of Wight Festival 1970* DVD
A high watermark for the band, playing most of Tommy along with a number of covers associated with them ("Young Man's Blues," "Summertime Blues," "Twist and Shout") to an early morning (2 am) festival crowd. The sound is cleaned up (with a 5.1 remix), and the performances are stunning—five minutes in and you can see why rock drummers should be bowing in the direction of Keith Moon's grave at least once a day. (TM)

India GRILL
HOUSE IS QUIET
MON-FRI
TIME FOR A LITTLE ROMANCE
MON-FRI
Luncheon Buffet 11:30-2 pm
TUESDAY
Pure Vegetarian Dinner Buffet 5-9 pm
WEDNESDAY
Classic Dinner Buffet 5-9 pm
THURSDAY
Kebabs Buffet 5-9 pm
SUNDAY
Brunch 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
MONDAY
Family Dinner Buffet 5-9 pm
Reservations Recommended
ALL BUFFETS
COME IN A GROUP OF:
3 SAVE $6/ 4 SAVE $ 8/
5 SAVE $10
BUY TWO ENTRÉES
& GET $ 8 OFF ON
THE THIRD ENTRÉE
(MAXIMUM $8 VALUE)
KEBAB INCLUDED
Minimum 2 beverage purchase required.
Dine in only. One coupon per table.
Not valid with any other offers or on holidays.
Expires Nov. 2, 2006
Phone 780.430.1900
www.ighospitality.com
4620-99St., Edmonton, AB
Fax: (780) 438 - 1204

For Your Disco Maniac Nephew And His Tripped-Out Honda Civic:
■ Headman, *Relish Compilation* CD
He won't have to keep their moves to his bedroom anymore because disco's cool again. Headman is one of the best at the nu-disco game and there's a brand new compilation from his Relish label with mixed and unmixed discs. (PP)

For the Wannabe Hepcat, or Anyone Who Needs to Chill Out:
■ Miles Davis, *Cool & Collected* CD
A compilation hip enough for the hardcore fan who just wants a nice, easy-flowing collection of Davis' most accessible stuff, and laid-back enough for the uninitiated to really get into Miles' cool. (FM)

For Your Hipster Older Sister Who's Convinced Nothing Good Came Out of Seattle in the '90s:
■ Nirvana, *Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!* DVD Reissue
As we continue to tread knee-deep in the cesspool of "nu-grunge" that is modern rock radio, we can't help but feel that we owe a lot of it to a three-piece from Aberdeen, Washington. Thanks for Nickelback. Kind of. But when you re-examine the live footage from Nirvana's pre-*Nevermind* tour, interviews during their rise to fame, and legendary "Hollywood Rock" performance in Rio de Janeiro—all on this DVD—the thing really comes to mind: Duuuude, Nirvana kicked ass. No suicidal, self-loathing, pimply-faced, Pixies-loving reluctant rock stars will ever matter more, and *Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!* will always be that perfect document telling why. (EM)

For Your Funky Granola-Hippie Uncle Joe:
■ Jamiroquai, *High Times: Singles 1992-2006* CD or DVD
Whether you pick the video or audio version of *High Times* is inconsequential—either way funky acid jazz-infused rhythms of Jay Kay and Co. to your favourite patchouli-splashed relative and watch him start his own awkward spasm dance moves on your living room floor. Good times, for sure. (FM)

For Your Aging Cougar Aunt Who Has A Thing For Operatic Young Men:
■ Il Divo, *Live at the Greek Theatre* DVD
And I thought popera was dead. Il Divo looks like a younger, sexier, and, um, slimmer Three Tenors, only there's four of them. The "magic" acoustics of the illustrious Greek Theatre in L.A. propel all of their youthful vocal chords and that child-sized 20-string instrument that seems to appear in all new age and easy listening concert movies. It's all here! Panpipes! White suits! An audience full of yuppies who paid 400 dollars U.S. for a spot in the front row! Who can resist? Oh, right. Um, me. But soccer moms, on the other hand, have a new reason to stay up after hubby goes to bed. (EM)

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Peanuts for the holidays

Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!

VINCE GUARALDI TRIO
Charlie Brown Christmas
Producer: Vince Guaraldi; Released: November 9, 1965; Fantasy # F-8431

BONUS ALBUM
IF ONE WERE LOOKING FOR AN ALBUM of Christmas music that doesn't lose its appeal, appears to be timeless, and manages to get both the faithful and the agnostic into the holiday spirit, one couldn't go wrong with the pianist Vincent Anthony Guaraldi's soundtrack for the *Peanuts* Christmas special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Guaraldi accompanied Nina Simone, played with Stan Getz, Woody Herman, Frank Rosolino, and Conte Candoli, and collaborated with Cal Tjader and Mongo Santamaria. But this accomplished pianist and composer, who tragically passed away in his prime 30 years ago, will no doubt always be best remembered for his impeccable soundtrack to a comic strip.

As early as 1963, Guaraldi was approached to provide music for an animated television adaptation of Charles M. Schulz's *Peanuts*, and went on to compose music for 16 *Peanuts* television specials, as well as the animated feature film *A Boy Named Charlie Brown*.

But it's Guaraldi's invocation of the holiday spirit for the very first

100LPs
LECH LINKIEL

Peanuts Christmas special, aired in 1965, that stands out

OH, GOOD GRIEF!

Before *Peanuts*, Vince Guaraldi was already a successful West Coast jazz pianist with his unique arrangements of popular jazz standards and his signature tune, "Cast Your Fate to the Wind." His music had a distinctive sound that few others have been able to approximate. Though largely ignored by critics, Guaraldi developed one of the most distinctive, original, and joyous sounds in jazz piano—perhaps only Thelonious Monk is as instantly recognizable.

However, Guaraldi did not really find his "voice" on the instrument until 1962's *Jazz Impressions of Black Orpheus*. His prior recordings, *Vince Guaraldi Trio*, *Flower Is a Lovesome Thing*, and *Jazz Impressions* (which is really just a sampler of the two former works) are simply unexceptional West Coast jazz. The lightness of mood on these three early albums is further accentuated by the absence of a drummer.

Guaraldi is often been labeled "easy-listening," a mostly unfair characterization reflecting the accessibility of his work rather than its artistic merit. It precisely this light and vivid touch that not only made the *Peanuts* characters come to life—providing a distinct musical persona for each of the main characters—but also makes an album of Christmas music that avoids the heaviness of other such collections, without disappearing entirely into the background of a busy season; beautiful, yet exquisitely restrained.

IT'S YOUR DOG, CHARLIE BROWN!

Guaraldi recorded his compositions for the *Peanuts* Christmas special with two different trios: the first 11 cuts with Fred Marshall on bass and Jerry Granelli on drums, the rest with Monty Budwig on bass and

- Originally also available as a book-and-record set featuring stills, dialogue, and music from the television special.
- Hearing "Cast Your Fate to the Wind" in a cab prompted Lee Mendelson, the producer of the *Peanuts* TV specials, to approach Guaraldi.
- Guaraldi's Grammy-awarded "Cast Your Fate to the Wind" was inspired by the Brazilian film *Orfeu Negro*.

It's music that instantly triggers Christmas memories, as well as a good jazz recording that can be listened to year round.

Colin Bailey on drums, while Guaraldi himself handled the piano. A finer combo providing a soundtrack for the holiday, which excites children as much as adults, is still hard to find

They start off "O Tannenbaum" with a moving piano solo which then blends into a jazzy rendition of this classic piece. "What Child Is This" boasts a sensitive musical arrangement emphasizing piano and drums to produce a somewhat melancholy sounding piece of music. The rendition of "My Little Drum" is magnificently based on "The Little Drummer Boy." "Christmas Is

Coming" and "The Christmas Song" are aptly named for musically conveying the anticipation and joy of Christmas, while "Linus and Lucy" is Vince Guaraldi jazz at its finest

Which is perhaps why many people don't even realize they're listening to a jazz album when they encounter this marvelous collection of Christmas music—but they do. Hence, one of the strengths of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* is a crossover appeal equal to classics of the genre such as *Time Out* or *Kind of Blue*

It's music that instantly triggers childhood Christmas memories, as well as a good jazz recording that can be listened to year-round by those who wish to recall Christmases past—when life seemed much more magical and simple—as well as jazz enthusiasts who seek to experience a little Christmas spirit

COMPLEMENTS

Vince Guaraldi Trio *Jazz Impressions of Black Orpheus*, 1962, Fantasy # 437

Vince Guaraldio Trio *A Boy Named Charlie Brown*, 1964, Fantasy # F-8430

Vince Guaraldi Trio *The Charlie Brown Suite & Other Favourites*, 2003, Bluebird # 53900

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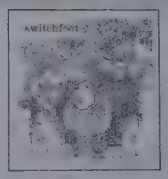
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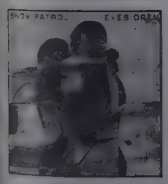
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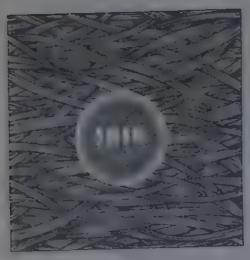
cd reviews



ISIS
In the Absence of Truth
(Ipecac)
★★★★☆
In the Fishtank
(In the Fishtank)
★★★★
Cleaning the Eye DVD
(Ipecac)
★★★

ISIS' LATEST FULL-LENGTH, *IN THE ABSENCE OF Truth*, expands on the crashing ebb and flow intensity of their last few albums. Predictably, *Truth* also finds them building on the more melodic explorations that took shape throughout 2004's ***Panopticon***—longer dub/ambient passages, guttural throat screaming tempered by attempts at vocal melodies—with varied success.

When Isis do drop the hammer, they're as powerful as ever—maybe moreso juxtaposed against the gentler leanings of the songs. The sung vocals are less effective, mixed texturally in the music (good), but occasionally calling to mind Alice in Chains at their worst (bad).

Still, it's a very natural progression for the band, and a worthwhile listen, especially in the more explorative second half. *In the Fishtank* finds Isis sharing a Dutch (read: smoky) studio with Aereogramme. The results shy away from the expected quiet/loud dynamics to showcase a more measured and subtle side to the band. The only dud is "Delial," a looping metal-tinged number that sounds out of place and never takes off. *Clearing the Eye* offers an accurate account of the band's live show spanning their career, and if nothing else, shows how developed the band were from their inception. Also included is Isis' only music video, but it's a stinker.

JAMES STEWART

NICK PERREAULT
The Good Intentions
(Shameless)
★★★★☆

EITHER SHAMELESS RECORDS ARE IN LEAGUE with the devil, or they've just been incredibly fortunate. I say this because Shameless Records plays host to a roster of youthful and talented local musicians who all seem to have been plucked right out of their musical cribs and pushed into the studio, instruments in hand, ready to wow listeners with unexpected folk velour and pop delicacies.

To clarify things, Shameless Records aren't baby snatchers. They're just darn good at honing in on talent. Amy Seeley, the Wheat Pool, and now Nick Perreault with his album, ***The Good Intentions***, put the independent label up on the leader board. "Fire By Night" features Perreault spilling on his piano like a rainforest waterfall on a boulder, and "Alberta Blues" takes a nostalgic stroll down happy-go-lucky lane. Even his cover of Belinda Carlisle's "I Get Weak" (although the vocals feel a bit rough and ragged at times) challenges the most gifted pianists.

Every track manages to hand a lollipop to its listeners (except maybe for "Injured Ignored," which tastes like sucralose), and on that note, we truly have to wonder whether genetic modification might be the "shameless" weapon of choice.

AMANDA ASH

HOLGER CZUKAY
Radio Wave Surfer
(Revisited)
★★★☆☆
Good Morning Story
(Revisited)
★★★★☆

WHILE THE JUSTIFIED, UNANIMOUS PRAISE OF Can as an important band in rock's history continues to flow, the avalanche of solo reissues from the group's members is perhaps not so justified.

Like Can's late '80s comeback attempt ***Rite Time***, 1989's ***Radio Wave Surfer*** is full of quirky (or annoying) dubby art-rock that soon grates with short tape experiments only fraying the nerves further. For rabid Czukay fans, the unreleased track "Mono Tone" is actually a nice, understated piece of ambience. ***Good Morning Story*** (1995) will find fans' ears easier if only because two tracks meditate on the riff of one of Can's most copied tunes, "Vitamin C." The rest of the album features electronic dub that would have found favor with fans of the Orb or Czukay's pals Air Liquide at the time.

There are interesting moments and experiments on both albums but they've aged far from gracefully, as it becomes clearer that Can as a whole was a lot better than its individual parts. Czukay's made the best solo albums but neither of these is as simply brilliant as 1980's ***Movies***.

PROSPER PRODANIUK

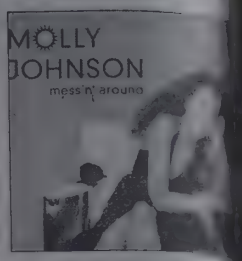
NEIL YOUNG & CRAZY HORSE
Live at the Fillmore East. March 6 & 7, 1970
(Reprise)
★★★★★

LIVE AT THE FILLMORE EAST IS THE FIRST IN A slew of upcoming releases Young's been sitting on for 20-plus years. Only now—looking back on everything he's done—can you even being to really appreciate these kinds of relics: this is less of an album than it is a history lesson. Two nights at the Fillmore East—where Young played with Miles Davis—that have gone down in history as two of the defining Young & Crazy Horse gigs are documented here, exactly as they were, with some digital remastering of course.

The important factor in this equation is Crazy Horse, who wear their "world's best worst band" badge with as much honour as they're capable of. Danny Whitten—essentially "second in command" to captain Neil, and whose death inspired the legendary *Tonight's the Night* album—is featured here, making *Live at the Fillmore East* the only official live Neil Young recording where Whitten plays a part.

But back-story aside, the album soars—not unlike the swirling, proto-shoegaze guitar on the 16-minute version of "Cowgirl in the Sand" and the 12-minute marathon that is "Down By the River"—and captures the band in their most perfect, ragged glory.

EAMON MCGRATH



MOLLY JOHNSON
Messin' Around
(Anthem)
★★★☆☆

AS ITS TITLE SUGGESTS, *MESSIN' AR*[illegible] more of an exercise in dabbling [illegible] than a straightforward, genre-spe[illegible] As a result, it falls somewhere [illegible] and jazz—and surprisingly, Johnso[illegible] pulls it off.

It's likely that pop enthusiasts will find [illegible] latter half of the album too jazzy, [illegible] purists will find the first half too popp[illegible] such partisanship just isn't necessary. [illegible] poppy stuff is still mature and well writ[illegible] with the cover of Springsteen's "Streets [illegible] Philadephia"; the R&B stuff is darker [illegible] cooler ("Rain"), while the in-between stu[illegible] fun too.

Still, Johnson and her four-piece band [illegible] at their best as they slip easily in and ou[illegible] samba- and bossa-nova-influenced [illegible] ("If You Know Love," "Let's Waste S[illegible] Time") and playful, upbeat showtune-e[illegible] numbers ("But Not for Me," "Sticks [illegible] Stones"). Rounding out the collection [illegible] "Tristes Souveniers," a bilingual nod to Joh[illegible] son's French fan-base. Regardless of ge[illegible] Johnson's vocals, recorded "off the ho[illegible] throughout and often reminiscent of a you[illegible] Billie Holiday, carry her third album all [illegible] way through.

ADAM GAUMON[illegible]

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Mac onion and cheese

Long winter nights call for anything but Lipton's

OTEL MACDONALD
CONFEDERATION LOUNGE
,085-100 St., ★★★★☆

WRITING THIS BEARING IN MIND fact that it will be published on ecember 21st: the winter solstice—e day with the fewest hours of unlight and, for a lot of Edmontoni-s, probably the longest and worst of the year.

The way I figure it, we have a cou-of choices. We can either hunker own in our wood-paneled base-ent rec-rooms watching Don Cher-Rock 'em Sock 'em hockey DVDs, we can get out and try to embrace e winter. Y'know, "pip pip," "stiff upper-lip," and all that jazz. Well, ere were no upper-lips stiffer than ose of the Brits who founded this ountry so I pounded on my winter ers and headed for the Hotel Mac's Confederation Lounge.

I love the Mac.

It doesn't matter how cold it is utside, you walk into the Mac ow, on a deep-dark-December ght, and you can't help but feel arm. I can't really explain it, but in lot of respects, it reminds me of the iendly Giant. Do you remember ow Friendly used to invite you in at e beginning of the show and then ll a chair next to the fire for you ile his warm voice said, "Look Look way up..."?

Slipping into a chair at the Mac is ot of like that. You sink in and are through the large French win-ows on the south side of the room the frozen North Saskatchewan ver, or maybe you let your eyes turally drift up the wall to the ormous painting of the founding thers of the Confederation. Either y, the end result is the same—a mile forms on your lips.

The menu in the Confederation unge is relatively consistent with hat you might expect to find in a unge (steak sandwich, burger, ndwiches, tapas, etc.), with some e upgrades that set it apart from e usual pub-grub menus.

For example, the burger comes th some more interesting toppers, u have your choice of cuts for the ak (including tenderloin), and u can get a grilled Portobello shroom and Brie sandwich. As mpting as everything looked how-r, you simply can't beat a hot l of soup on a cold winter's ght, and I was pleased to note that menu offered the mother of all ps: French onion ($11).

ench onion soup in bistros

JEFFREY GREENALLS

around France is so ubiquitous that it's commonly referred to simply as "gratinee." In Canada, however, Lipton ruined onion soup for most by making it synonymous with a salty package that's added to sour cream so you can dip chips in it.

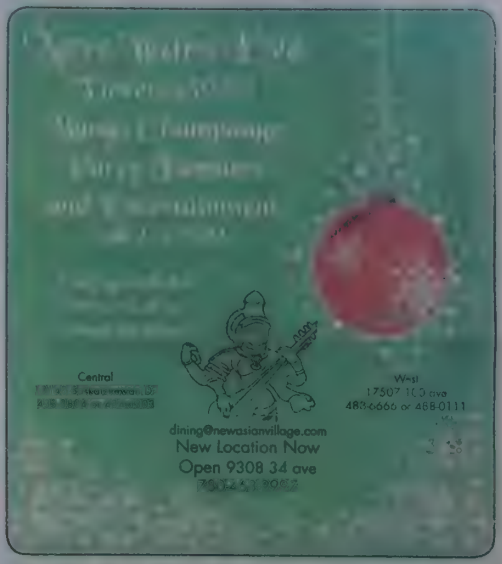
But a proper French-onion soup with caramelized onions, mellow garlic, rich beef broth, baguette crou-tons, and Gruyere or Emmental cheese is a thing of beauty

The soup at the Mac came in a tra-ditional French terrine which had been gratineed to melt the cheese (a nice Swiss) and brown it slightly.

When I managed to poke through the cheese and crouton layer on top, I was pleased to find a very mellow beef broth that had a nice thyme flavour to it. Additionally, it seemed to me that the soup had been fin-ished with a hint of brandy, which is quite traditional but certainly wasn't expected. I know I certainly wouldn't have left a bottle of brandy at the disposal of a large majority of the cooks that I worked with. At any rate, the soup was fantastic and although I can't be 100% certain, I strongly suspect that the brown beef stock the soup was built around was made from scratch—and that makes all the difference in the world. The broth was full-flavoured and mellow with a velvety smoothness to it which made it incredibly pleasing

Now, I like to bitch and moan about the weather as much as the next guy. But when push comes to shove, if not having winter meant missing out on a long cold night huddled over a hot bowl of soup and a dark ale at the Mac, I'd choose winter every time. The snowbirds (cowards!) obviously don't know what they're missing.

MONTE KRUEGER



UMBLINGS

ONDERING WHAT TO DO FOR NEW ear's Eve? The folks at La Table de Boisir not being the kind to miss an portunity to throw a dinner party, have together a wonderful five-course table hote menu for Dec 31. Included are such ouches as foie gras, Malpeque oysters, ainpaccio, stuffed quail—and the list es on and on. Call 429-3386 for infor-tion and reservations.

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EIGHT DAYS A WEEK

PICK OF THE WEEK

BOXING DAY SOUNDCLASH
STARLITE ROOM

Party off that turkey dinner! DJ Edit of the Glitch Mob headlines an all-out, post-holiday, still-hungover dance extravaganza with the likes of Techno Hippy Crew, GOMP, Roots Sound System, and Subterranean Sound. Dec 26. (10030-102 St.)

THURSDAY **21**

KOKANEE COMEDY BATTLE
SIDETRACK CAFE

The recent change to the Thursday regime at the Sidetrack offers local and touring comics battling for prizes and audience affection. (10238-104 St.)

FRIDAY **22**

NOTEBOOK MAG LAUNCH
VELVET UNDERGROUND

Join the party launching *Notebook*, a brand-spankin' new art and lit quarterly, with Hector Fector, Radiovacana, Christian Hansen, and AA Sound System. (10030-102 St.)

SATURDAY **23**

JEFF & CELINA'S YULETIDE CABARET
VARSCONA THEATRE

Jeff & Celina's seasonal tomfoolery, regaling audiences with wassail, cooking tips, craft-making, and local celebrity cameos. (10329-103 Ave.)

SUNDAY **24**

BRIGHT NIGHTS
HAWREAK PARK

'Tis Canada's largest outdoor festival of lights. The drive-thru holiday fest boasts over 500 electrifying light displays, enjoyable from the toasty comfort of your car.

MONDAY **25**

CHRISTMAS DAY

Barring cinemas and the glorious, perpetual convenience of 7/11, pretty much everything is closed. Horror remake *Black Christmas* opens today, if you dare venture out.

TUESDAY **26**

BOXING DAY
THE INSANITY OF THE MALL

Run! Hide! Shop! For those courageous enough to brave the retail sector today, we salute you. Crazy fuckers. Spend that gift dough! Who needs textbooks, honestly?

WEDNESDAY **27**

THE SOUND OF MUSIC
FESTIVAL PLACE

The annual stage production returns with silver-white winters that melt into spring and some of our other favourite cliché things. Indeed. (100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park)

NEXT THURSDAY **28**

OPUS 27
MUTTART HALL

The Anne Burrows Musical Foundation hosts a showcase concert, featuring the diverse talents of scholarship recipients & raising support for young musicians. (10050 MacDonald Dr.)

LIVE MUSIC

ALTERNATIVE

BACKROOM VODKA BAR *10324-82 Ave., (upstairs)* — Info: 436-4418.
BLACK DOG *10425-82 Ave., 439-1082* — **Dec 30** Fractal Pattern
MEGATUNES *10355-82 Ave.* — Info: 434-6342
NAKED CYBER CAFÉ *10354 Jasper Ave.* — **Jan 6** Spheres of Intelligence, w/ Jun Nakane.
NEW CITY *10081 Jasper Ave., Palladium Building, 429-CLUB* — **Thu** Trash Bingo w/ DJs Nazz Nomad & Beard of Bees **Fri** City Streets w/ to the Teeth to the Hilt, Hot Panda & The Secretaries **Sat** Saturday Sucks Xmas Party w/ Satan Claws & Capital City Burlesque **Dec 31** NYE party
SIDETRACK CAFÉ *10238-104 St., 421-1326* — **Every Thu** The Kokanee Comedy Battle **Fri** Bobby Cameron w/ City Vox **Tue** Jody Glenham **Wed** Black Berry Traffic w/ Down in the City **Dec 29** 7 & & is w/ Hot Panda & AA Sound System **Dec 30** America Rosa **Dec 31** NYE w/ The Superband **Jan 3** First Aid Kit w/ Helden
STARLITE ROOM *10030-102 St. 428-1099* — **Fri** Hip Hop For Hunger w/ Politic Live, Touch, K-Riz, Oozeela, Proveli Paragon, Details, Emcee-E, $2 off admission with a Food Bank donation **Tue** Boxing Day Sound Clash w/ DJ Edit of Glitch Mob, Roots Sound System, Subterranean Sound, GOMP & Techno Hippy Crew **Dec 29** Ed Rush & Optical w/ Slim Pickens VS Phatcat, Eradik, Dreadnought & guests **Dec 30** Eshab Ibn Wyza & Corvid Lorax-Double CD release w/ GHU **Dec 31** NYE w/ Murder City Sparrows, Mad Bombers Society, The Igniters, RowdeyMen & On the Brink.
THE ONE ON WHYTE *10544-82 Ave., 437-7699* — **Every Fri & Sat** DJ Cholklit Elvis & DJ Spyder
THE STUDIO *9510-105 Ave.* — **Wed** The Hardtails, The Nightstalkers, Profunda Rosa & The Firebrands
VELVET UNDERGROUND *10030-102 St. 428-7827* — **Thu** NRMLS WLCM w/ DJ Nik 7 Xmas Party **Fri** *Notebook Magazine* launch party w/ Hector Fector, Christian Hansen, AA Sound System & Radiovacana **Sat** The Shitty Gift Exchange w/ DJ Generic & Khalib **Tue** Boxing Day Sounddash **Wed** Lushious Wednesday **Dec 29** The Blazing Violets w/ PIND **Dec 30** Rolodex w/ In Love with the Struggle **Dec 31** NYE double party w/ The Starlite Room.
WUNDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS *8120 - 101 St. 436-2286*

BLUES & ROOTS

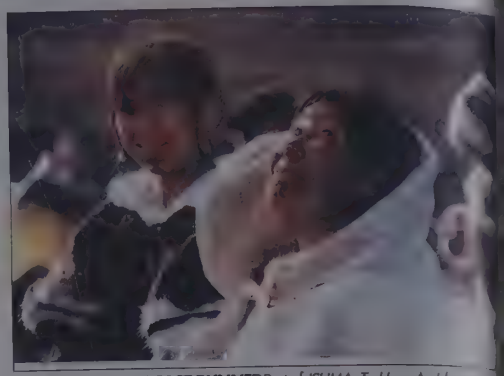
BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ *9624-76 Ave., 989-2861* — **Thu** Rhonda Stakich & Jessica Heine **Fri** Harpist Nora Bumanis **Sat** Jim Findlay. Closed Dec 24-30, **Dec 31** NYE party w/ The Rault Brothers Band
BLUES ON WHYTE *10329-82 Ave. 439-5058* — **Thu-Sat** DuRite Aces **Tue-Wed & Dec 31** Trevor Finlay Band
DUSTER'S PUB *6402-118 Ave.*— Info: 474-0997
LIVEWIRE BAR & GRILL *1107 Knotwood Rd 440-1063*
WHISTLE STOP LOUNGE *12416-132 Ave. 451-5506*
XWRECKS *10143-50 St. 466-8069*

JAZZ

FOUR ROOMS *137 Edm City Centre East, 426-4767* — **Thu-Sat** Julie Mahedron **Dec 28-29** Vanessa Rodrigues **Dec 30** Toque **Dec 31** NYE w/ Don Berner Trio & Shannon Tyler
HULBERT'S *7601-115 St., 436-1161* —**Wed** Wobbly Wednesday w/ dj frederick. Info: www.hulberts.ca
JEFFREYS CAFÉ *9640-142 St., 451-8890* — **Fri** Anna Beaumont's Christmas set.
YARDBIRD SUITE *10203-86 Ave. 432-0428* — Closed until Jan 26.

POP & ROCK

CASINO EDMONTON *7055 Argyll Rd., 463-9467* — **Fri & Sat** Kory Atas **Dec 29-30** Carson County **Dec 31** Colleen Rae & Cornerstone
CASINO YELLOWHEAD *12464-153 St., 424-9467* — **Fri & Sat** Party of Four **Dec 29-30** Catalyst **Dec 31** Almost ABBA
BACKDRAUGHT PUB *8307-99 St., 430-9200* — **Thu** Open mic Christmas party **Fri** Perilous Seas w/ Morituri **Sat** The Panty Ho's **Dec 29** Burning Sands w/ Morituri.
HOMEGROWN SOUL SHACK *8102-10324-82 Ave., 989-7009* — **Every Sat,** 5 pm, live music.
JEKYLL & HYDE PUB *10610-100 Ave. 426-5381* — **Every Fri & Sat** Headwind.
KINGSKNIGHT PUB *9221-34 Ave., 433-2599*
RENDEZVOUS *10108-149 St., 444-1822*
URBAN LOUNGE *8103-105 St., 439-3388* — **Thu** September Stone, Sliver & Misses Missile **Fri-Sat** Mourning Wood **Dec 28** Whitewall w/ Typhoid Mary **Dec 29-30** 17 Speedhead **Dec 31** NYE w/ Mustard Smile.



ATANARJUAT THE FAST RUNNER Part of *ISUMA: To Have An Idea* a survey exhibition of Inuit films at the Art Gallery of Alberta. See Exhibits

PUB MUSIC

ALEXANDERS LOUNGE *Chateau Nova Hotel, 159 Airport Rd.* — **Every Fri & Sat** Eric Miller.
ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL *7704-104 St., 432-4611*— **Fri-Sat** Acoustiholics **Wed** Duff Robinson **Dec 28-30** Chuck Rose **Dec 31** NYE w/ Duff Robinson.
BLIND PIG *St. Albert, 418-6332* — Live music every second **Sat.**
BUD'S LOUNGE *Londonderry Mall 66 St. & 137 Ave.* — Every **Thu** 9pm Jam nite. **Every Sat** 9pm live entertainment.
CEILI'S IRISH PUB *10338-109 St., 426-5555* — **Every Fri** kick it bro's **Every Sat** Jamaoke.
THE NEW TAPHOUSE *9020 McKinney Ave., St. Albert.* — Info: 458-0860. **O'BYRNES IRISH PUB** *10616-82 Ave., 414-6766* — **Tue** Irish jam session w/ Shannon Johnson & Irish dancers **Wed** Chris Wynters of Captain Tractor & guests.
ROSE & CROWN PUB *10235-101 St., 426-7827* —**Thu-Dec 31** Don Johnston. Not open Christmas Day
SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St., WEM, 444-1752* —**Thu-Sat** Dave Hiebert **Tue-Wed** Tim Cotton
SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall, 463-7788* — **Thu-Sat** Tim Cotton **Tue-Wed** Lyle Hobbs.
SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown, 10012-101A Ave., 426-7784* — **Thu-Sat** Duane Allen **Tue-Wed** Duane Allen

DANCE CLUBS

ALTERNATIVE

BACKROOM VODKA BAR *10324-82 Ave., (upstairs), 436-4418* — **Mon** Local Motive - House, progressive, techno w/ guests **Wed** Soulful Deep House w/ DJs Smoov & Nic-E **Fri** All Out Fridays w/ Shortround, Echo & Sweetz, mash-ups and dancefloor rhythms **Sat** Flava - hip hop w/ Shortround, Echo & guests **Sun** Moonlight Cinema 9 pm - *Simpsons*, a movie & DJ.
BOOTS *10242-106 St., 423-5014* — Open 7 days/week Happy Hour: 3 to 8 pm **Fri** Retro Disco **Sat** Flashback Saturdays w/ DJs Derrick & Manny Mulatto; Male Stripper, 11 pm.
BUDDY'S NIGHT CLUB *117258-Jasper Ave., 488-7736* — Open Nightly 9-3 **Sun** Rotating drag shows in The Stardust Lounge w/ Mz Bianca & Mz Vanity Fair, GoDiva & Donnatella NE1 in the GoDonna Show, DJ WestCoastBaby[illegible] **Mon** Amateur Strip Contest w/Mia Fell[illegible] WestCoastBabyDaddy **Tue** Free pool & [illegible]ment, DJ Arrowchaser **Wed** Hump Day w/ DJ Sexxxy Sean **Thu** Wet Undies contest w[illegible] Fellow & DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy **Fri** [illegible] Toonflash Dance Party, no cover before 10[illegible] **Sat** Undie Night (men only) free pool & [illegible]ment, DJ Arrowchaser.
DANTE'S BISTRO *17328 Stony Plain Road , 486-4448* — **Fri** Flirt Fridays text messaging single[illegible] party **Sat** DJ Johnny Sky. Info: www.dantes-bistro.com.
DECADENCE *10018-105 St.* — **Sat** Soul Heaven Saturdays w/ T-bass & Femme Funk. Fir[illegible] last Saturday of the month for event info ca[illegible] 990-1792 or www.etownrave[illegible]
DEVUN'S *10507-82 Ave., 437-7489* [illegible] hour until 7 pm every night
DEWEY'S *Powerplant (U of A)* — **Every Mon** Margins of Sounds w/ Baggy and Pete-1, d[illegible] beats, dub reggae, hip hop.
FILTHY MCNASTY'S *10511-82 Ave. (upstairs) 437-7489* — Happy Hour Every Day 5-9 pm **Mon** Metal Mondays **Tue** Twisted Trivia **Wed** Bar star college night **Thu** Punk Rock Bingo **Fri** [illegible] **Sat** Shake Yo' Ass Weekend w/ DJ Senal K (dance, alt, rock, retro) **Sun** Industry night, hal[illegible] price everything.
HALO *10538 Jasper Ave., 423-4256* — **Fri** The Mod Club - Soul, R&B, indie, Brit pop, new-wave, reggae & classic punk w/ DJs Blue Jay & Travy D **Sat** For Those Who Know - deep house w/ Junior Brown, Remo, Waylon Sherrington & Luke Morrison.
JAX'S *12315-118 Ave., 448-3650* — **Fri** Whatever Funk w/ DJ Resident Funk & Matt Hatter, house, drum 'n' bass **Sat** DJ Nostalgia & guests, house, hardhouse, trance NC **Sun** Free pool all day, freestyle put your name down.
NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE *10081 Jasper Ave. 429-CLUB* — **Mon** Make it Munchie Mondays w/ DJ Dusty Grooves **Tue** In The Kraut w/ DJ Erick, mod R&B, northern soul 60's garage &

HOT SHOWS

DEC 21 — **Hip Hop For Hunger w/ Politic Live** *Starlite Room, 10030-102 St., 428-1099* Touch, K-Riz, Oozeela, Proveli Paragon Details, Emcee-E, $2 off admission with a Food Bank donation.
DEC 26 — **Boxing Day Sounddash** *Starlite Room, 10030-102 St., 428-1099* DJ Edit of Glitch Mob, Roots Sound System, Subterranean Sound, GOMP & Techno Hippy Crew.
DEC 28 — **Armin Van Buuren** *Edmonton Events Centre, WEM* w/ DJ Remy & David Stone. Tickets $25-$30 at TIX, Foosh, Colorblind Underground Clothing & Shadified Salon
DEC 31 — **MSTRKRFT & Shout Out Out Out Out** *Citadel Theatre, 9828-101A Ave* w/ Luke Morrison, Nestor Delano, Dusty Grooves Cain, Darcy Ryan & Johnny D'Enco Tickets at Blackbyrd, Foosh, Connected Events & TIX
DEC 31 — **A Vaudevillian New Year's Eve Rave** *Theatre, 10708-124 St.* Tippy Agogo Bill Bourne, Mile Zero Dance, Laurelle, Leo FX & others. Tickets at TIX.

TICKETS LEGEND

ARD Arden Theatre, 5 St. Anne Street, St. Albert, (780) 459-1542, boxoffice@st-albert.net, ardentheatre.com • **CIT** - Citadel Theatre, 9828-101A Ave, 425-1820, 1-888-425-1820, citadeltheatre.com • **HOR** - Horizon Stage, 315 Jespersen Ave., Spruce Grove, 962-8995, horizonstage.com • **TIX** - Tix on the Square, 9930-102 Ave., 420-1757, 1-877-888-1757,tixonthesquare.ca • **TM** - Ticket Master, 451-8000, ticketmaster.ca

...od revival **Wed** Robobot DJ 3000 **Thu** I Love 80s **Fri** Friday Night Freek Out w/ DJs Jebus & Anarchy Adam of CJSR & G-Whiz **Sat** Rock 'n ...ll/Heaven n' Hell w/ Nazz Nomad & Beard of Bees **Sun** Rub A Dub w/ DJ Jebus & Anarchy Adam
...W CITY SUBURBS *10081 Jasper Ave., 429-CLUB* — **Thu** Bingo Trasheteria BingoThursdays w/ Nazz Nomad & Beard of Bees **Fri** Live Events Night **Sat** Saturday Sucks w/ Nik ...elya & Blue Jay **Wed** DIY Wednesdays, 4 ...al bands.
...KI DIAMONDS *8130 Gateway Blvd., down-... 439-8006* — **Wed** Punk Night ...esdays
...THE ROCKS *11740 Jasper Ave., 482-4767* — **Fri-Sat** Live music **Thu** Salsa in the City, dance ...sons & Cuban Salsa DJs.
...M BAR & GRILL *10524-101 St., 990-0038* — **Wed** Wings **Thu** Sports trivia. Call for upcoming events
...VOY BAR *10401-82 Ave.* — **Wed** Sabor: latin music w/ Cenzi **Fri** Bubi: transcontinental indie trash, w/ Flyboy **Sat** Wanderlust: balearic beats ... Ben Hot **Sun** Mondo Electreau, '60s trash w/ ... Dan Electreau.
...RLITE ROOM *10030-102 St.* — **Fri** Cherry Fridays w/ DJ Jason LP.
...NTRA *10147 Saskatchewan Dr., 434-8699 - ...llen* — **Thu & Sun** 5 pm - Midnight; **Fri & Sat** 5 pm - 2 am (Dancing 10 pm - 2 am)
...BASSMENT INC. *125208-118 Ave., 488-7105* — Hip-hop, R&B, & Top 40 Music. All ages dance club every **Fri & Sat**.
...ATTIC *10407-82 Ave., 433-1969* — **Wed** Hi-...ol Night **Thu** Student Nite.
...ELEPHANT & CASTLE WHYTE AVE *10314-82 Ave., 439-4545* — **Thu** Sleeman Method Thursdays - DJ Headspin, down-tempo & eclec-... hip hop. www.eandcwhyte.com
...ROOST *10345-104 St., 426-3150* — **Thu** Gorgeous Hostess Dr. Lexi Tronic, drag kings & queens, burlesque & rotating shows **Fri** All request dance party w/ DJ Jazzy **Sat** Monthly theme parties, DJ Jazzy upstairs (new music), DJ Jon & Mike downstairs (retro music) **Sun** Fabulous drag show every Sunday w/ Hostess Connie Lingua & the Gay Game Show. Hours: Sun & Thu, 8 pm - 3 am; **Fri & Sat**, 8 pm - 4 am, closed Mon-Wed. Info: www.theroostnite-club.com
...LIGHT AFTERHOURS *10018-105 St.* — **Fri** ...back house/hard w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy Inertia w/ guests **Sat** hard NRG/trance/funky w/ Jeff Hillis, Stx, Big Daddy, DTDR, Tweek!
...ON HALL *Argyll & 99st., 702-0318* — **Thu** Hi-ball specials **Fri** Ladies Night **Sat** T 'N' A Saturdays.
...VET UNDERGROUND *10030-102 St.* — **Tue** Trainwreck Tuesdays - Punk Rock **Wed** Lushious Wednesdays w/ The JBots **Thu** NRMLS WLCM w/ DJ Nik 7 **Sun** Where It's At Sundays w/ DJ - ... Propa & 2 Live Drew.
...NDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS *8120 - 101 St., ...786* — **Tue** Hipster Twister **Wed** Round One feat. DJ Toma & Aminder Brown **Thu** In & Out feat DJ Paul & Frank **Fri & Sat** Local DJs & ...ds **Sun** DJ Regan & co. w/ trance, dance & ...ve styles.
...TERHOURS *10028-102 St., (alley entrance)* — **Fri** Foundation Fridays - hard house/garage/breaks w/ Nic-E, Ryan Wade, Steven M, Bree, Dragon, Nestor Delano, ...uretto Johnny Dangerous, Tianna J. **Sat** Release Saturdays - funky/electek/hard house/techno w/ Luke Morrison, Tony Donohue, Erin Eden, Donovan, Tory P, Rob Tryptomene, ...n Doyle, Derkin, Tras Mateeson.

...OP 40

...0 RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB *10730-107 Ave. 414-0233* — Every **Thu** Hip Hop & open mic **Fri** Sexy Friday Every **Sat** Dance Hall reg-... night by Generation II Vexx & DJ Pooche w/ G-Unit Sound.
...R NONE *10545-82 Ave., 432-5058* — Drink specials all night **Fri & Sat**.
...IARD CLUB *#200, 10505-82 Ave., 432-0335* — **Thu** Tantric Thursdays, Live DJ, drink specials.
...ND DUCK *10416-118 Ave., 479-7193* — **Wed & Fri** DJ Grand Master Rich Carr
...E SELECT *10018-106 St., 428-1629* — **Fri** DJ ... & Tryptomene.
...ENTE NIGHT CLUB *10815 Jasper Ave., 425-...* — **Thu** Urban Substance Ladies Night w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew featuring DJs Invinceable, ShortRound, Echo, SpinCycle, BabyGirl & Touch It **Fri** Funktion Fridays w/ DJ Invinceable, Bomb Squad, Weapon X & BabyGirl **Sat** SoulOut Saturdays **Sun** Ladies Night w/ DJ Invinceable, **Wed** Old Skool w/ DJ Choka-Sean, DJ Sin & DJ Instigate, **Tue** Bashment Tuesdays reggae night w/ Bomb Squad Q.B., Chrome Nine & weekly guest DJs.
...'S IRISH PUB *10338-109 St., 426-5555* — **Mon** Get Your Funk On w/ Quake **Fri** Cinco De Mayo **Sat** Various Fundraisers, **Wed** Hot ...
...SE NIGHTCLUB *10345-105 St., 969-6969* — **Tue** Calypso & Latin dance **Fri** Status Friday, R&B, hip hop & reggae.
...MY'S *8318-144 Ave., 478-1770* — **Sat** ...es Night, Top 40 **Sun** Happy hour all day, ...e pool
...EW PUB *132 Ave & Victoria Tr., 414-1111* — **Tue & Thu** Karaoke **Wed** DJ Lex & DJ Fiore **Sun** DJ Fiore plays today's hottest hits & yesterday's classics NC ever!
CRISTAL LOUNGE *10336 Jasper Ave, 426-7521* — **Fri** Fundraiser Night, call 990-3692 for bookings **Sat** Legendary Urban Saturdays - R&B, hip hop, reggae, soca w/DJ Invinceable & MC J-Money, $8
ELEVATION LOUNGE *10309-81 Ave (upstairs), 433-4979* — DJ 4Play playing the best of Top 40 & retro music all week long **Wed** Guest bartenders **Thu** Salsa Night, 8 pm NC.
ESCAPE ULTRA LOUNGE *WEM, 489-1330* — **Wed** Wild On Wednesdays, Ladies Night **Fri** Fahrenheit Fridays **Sat** Saturday Night House Party w/ Urban Metropolis feat. Jin the emcee live in concert. Info. www.escapenightclub.com
FEVER *West Edmonton Mall, Phase 3* — **Wed** Industry Night **Fri** DJ Shocker **Sat** Saturday Night Fever Info www.fevernightclub.com
FLUID LOUNGE *Jasper & 109 St., 906-7939* — **Sat** DJ Jon Jähn
FUNKY BUDDHA *10341-82 Ave.* - **Tue** Cool Latin Tuesdays, dance lessons at 8 pm.
GALLERY LOUNGE *Mayfield Inn, 16615-109 Ave 930-4061* — **Thu** Rock 'n' Roll Trivia **Fri & Sat** DJ Rory
GAS PUMP *10166-114 St., 488-4841* — **Fri & Sat** dance music by DJ Christian **Sun** Open most long weekend Sundays. Dance music by DJ Travis. Mandatory coat check/dress code/no cover charge
GINGUR SKY LOUNGE *11505-118 Ave.* — Every **Thu** Urban Substance Thursdays w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew. Info www.gingursky.com
GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL *10045-109 St., 426-7111* — **Fri & Sat** Top 40 w/ dancing **Sun** Industry night
H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE *10044-82 Ave 433-5794* — **Tue & Thu & Sat & Sun** Karaoke DJ Double Jack plays the best in dance, rock & pop.
IRON HORSE *8101 103 St, 438-1907* — **Fri** DJ Loose Cannon **Sat** Urban dance party w/ DJ 420.
KELLY'S *11540 Jasper Ave., 451-8825* — **Mon** Free Pool **Wed & Sun** Karaoke Happy Hour 11 am - 7 pm daily
KINGSKNIGHT PUB *9221-34 Ave, 433-2599* — **Thu** Live music, karaoke w/ Smirking Jay in the Venue **Fri** Ladies Night in the Venue w/ male dancers 8 pm, karaoke 11 pm, live band 10 pm in the Kingsknight **Sat** Karaoke in the Venue 9 pm, live bands 10 pm in the Kingsknight.
LIVEWIRE BAR *1163 Knottwood Rd, 440-1063* — **Thu - Sat** DJ Dave **Sun** Karaoke
METRO *10250-106 St.* — **Wed, Thu & Sat**, info 990-0704
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6108-90 Ave., 490-1999 — **Fri** Live Music **Sat** Ladies Night & Live Music
NIKKI DIAMONDS *8130 Gateway Blvd., downstairs, 439-8006* — **Fri & Sat** DJ w/Dancing, Top 40 & requests
OVERTIME BROILER & TAPROOM *10304-111 St., 423-1643* — **Thu** Extreme Thursdays feature cheap drinks & cool music
OVERTIME BROILER & TAPROOM SOUTH *Whitemud Crossing* & 106 St., 485-1717 — **Thu - Sat** DJ Mikee
PEPPERS *111 Ave & St Albert Tr., 451-8022* — **Tue** Requests w/ Wyld Stallions **Wed** Wing night **Fri & Sat** Live music
PUCKS *11845 Wayne Gretzky Dr S, 471-1231* — **Fri** Top 40, '80s & rock 'n' roll, ladies specials, cool atmosphere, the newest club on the block
RACK 'EM BILLIARDS URBAN DANCE LOUNGE *10131-97 St, 474-7322* — **Fri & Sat** house trance, R&B beats DJ Venus & guests
RATT *7th Floor SUB bldg, U of A Campus* — **Sat** Athletes night w/ DJ Kriegs.
RHYTHM & BREWS *4990-92 Ave.* — **Sat** Classic Rock Night
ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL *11715 108 Ave, 447-4727* — DJ Sociable Dave all week long.
RUM *Phase II, WEM, 486-9494* — **Thu** Student night **Fri** R&B dance lessons **Sat** Reserve a Table **Sun** Industry night, dodgeball.
RUNWAY NIGHTSPOT *Leduc Inn, 986-4018* — **Wed - Sat** DJ Vincenzio.
SELINA'S *15347 Stony Plain Rd, 481-6444* — Hip hop, reggae, soca, R&B **Wed** Giveaway Wednesday **Fri** Rupie's Sound Explosions **Sat** Dancehall Saturdays.
SPORTSWORLD INLINE & ROLLER SKATING DISCO *13710-104 St., 472-6336* — **Tue** RETRO NIGHT hosted by Shade **Fri** Top 40 Request w/ a mix of Retro & Disco hosted by Jam Skater ShOrt D **Sat** 1-5 pm & 7 pm -midnight, top 40 Request w/ a mix of Retro & Disco hosted by Special K & Shade **Sun** 1-5 pm, top 40 Request w/ a mix of Retro & Disco hosted by Special K. Info: www.sports-world.ca.
STOLLI'S *10368-82 Ave., 437-2293* — **Sun** House Arrest w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy Inertia w/ guests **Wed** Wild Cherry Wednesdays w/ Tripswitch, Rezidnt Funk, Steve Velocity, Fusion
STONEHOUSE PUB *11026 Jasper Ave., 420-0448* — **Fri & Sat** DJ Clay.
SUITE 69 *8232-103 St, 439-6969* — **Wed - Sat** '70s & '80s dance music
THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE *10765 Jasper Ave 906-7939* — **Thu** Salsa Style Thursdays **Fri** Connected Fridays, local house & international guest DJs.
THE FOX PUB *10125-109 St., 990-0680* — **Fri & Sat** DJ retro tunes for everyone **Sun** live local music
THE FRAT *10320-102 Ave 428-3733* — **Sat** Sorority Saturday **Tue** Karaoke Night
THE GUILTY MARTINI SOUTH *10338-81 Ave 433-7183* — **Thu** Urban Substance Thursdays w/ Invinceable, J-Money, Shortround & Echo **Sat** Supreme Saturdays w/ Invinceable, Big Sun & DJ Game Open Sunday long weekends, Live DJ every night
THE NEW RUM *Phase II WEM, 486-9494* — **Thu** Urban Substance **Fri & Sat** Top 40 **Sun** Industry Sundays
THE NEW TAPHOUSE *9020 McKinney Ave., St Albert 458-0860* — **Thu** DJ Slimfast & Lil' Jord.
THE ONE ON WHYTE *10544-82 Ave., 437-7699* — **Fri & Sat** DJ Choklit & DJ Spyder **Sun** Hospitality House Party
THE STANDARD *6107-104 St, 438-CLUB* — **Wed** Standard Issue Wednesdays **Thu** Limited edition, various DJs & events **Fri** Harman B & DJ Kwake Info. www.the-standard.ca
WEISERS LOUNGE *957 Fir St., Sherwood Park, 464-3939* — **Tue** Latin Night **Fri** Classic rock **Sat**, 3 pm Live music jam **Thu, Fri & Sat** DJ Dino, large dance floor, Top 40

GIGS AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY 21

NEW CITY — **DJs Nazz Nomad & Beard of Bees**; SIDETRACK CAFÉ — **The Kokonee Comedy Battle**; VELVET UNDERGROUND — **NRMLS WLCM w/ DJ Nik 7 Xmas Party**; BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ — **Rhonda Stakich & Jessica Heine**; FOUR ROOMS — **Julie Mahedron**; BACKDRAUGHT PUB — **Open mic Christmas party**; PEARL LOUNGE — **September Stone, Sliver & Misses Missile**; ROSE & CROWN PUB — **Don Johnston**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St., WEM* — **Dave Hiebert**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall* — **Tim Cotton**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown* — **Duane Allen.**

FRIDAY 22

NEW CITY — **City Streets w/ to the Teeth to the Hilt, Hot Panda & The Secretaries**; SIDETRACK CAFÉ — **Bobby Cameron w/ City Vox**; STARLITE ROOM — **Hip Hop For Hunger w/ Politic Live, Touch, K-Riz, Oozeela, [illegible] Paragon, Details, Emcee-E**; THE ONE ON WHYTE — **DJ Choklit Elvis & DJ Spyder**; VELVET UNDERGROUND — **Hector Fector, Christian Hansen, AA Sound System & Radiovacano**; BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ — **Harpist Nora Bumanis**; BLUES ON WHYTE — **DuRite Aces**; FOUR ROOMS — **Julie Mahedron**; JEFFREYS CAFÉ — **Anna Beaumont's Christmas set**; CASINO EDMONTON — **Kory Wlos**; CASINO YELLOWHEAD — **Party of Four**; BACKDRAUGHT PUB — **Perilous Seas w/ Morituri**; JEKYLL & HYDE PUB — **Headwind**; URBAN LOUNGE — **Mourning Wood**; ALEXANDERS LOUNGE — **Eric Miller**; ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL — **Acoustiholics**; ROSE & CROWN PUB — **Don Johnston**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St., WEM* — **Dave Hiebert**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall* — **Tim Cotton**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown* — **Duane Allen.**

SATURDAY 23

NEW CITY — **Saturday Sucks Xmas Party w/ Satan Claws & Capital City Burlesque**; THE ONE ON WHYTE — **DJ Choklit Elvis & DJ Spyder**; VELVET UNDERGROUND — **The Shitty Gift Exchange w/ DJ Generic & Khalib**; BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ — **Jim Findlay**; BLUES ON WHYTE — **DuRite Aces**; FOUR ROOMS — **Julie Mahedron**; CASINO EDMONTON — **Kory Wlos**; CASINO YELLOWHEAD — **Party of Four**; BACKDRAUGHT PUB — **The Panty Ho's**; JEKYLL & HYDE PUB — **Headwind**; URBAN LOUNGE — **Mourning Wood**; ALEXANDERS LOUNGE — **Eric Miller**; ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL — **Acoustiholics**; ROSE & CROWN PUB — **Don Johnston**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St., WEM* — **Dave Hiebert**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall* — **Tim Cotton**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown* — **Duane Allen**

TUESDAY 26

SIDETRACK CAFE — **Jody Glenham**; STARLITE ROOM & VELVET UNDERGROUND — **Boxing Day Sound Clash w/ DJ Edit of Glitch Mob, Roots Sound System, Subterranean Sound, GOMP & Techno Hippy Crew**; BLUES ON WHYTE — **Trevor Finlay Band**; O'BYRNES IRISH PUB — **Irish jam session w/ Shannon Johnson**; ROSE & CROWN PUB — **Don Johnston**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St., WEM* — **Tim Cotton**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall* — **Lyle Hobbs**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown* — **Duane Allen.**

WEDESDAY 27

SIDETRACK CAFÉ — **Black Berry Traffic w/ Down in the City**; [illegible] **The Hardtails, The Nightstalkers, Profunda Rosa & The Fire[illegible]** [illegible] ON WHYTE — **Trevor Finlay Band**; HULBERT'S — **Wobbly Wednesday w/ dj Frederick**; ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL — **Duff Robinson**; ROSE & CROWN PUB — **Don Johnston**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St., WEM* — **Tim Cotton**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall* — **Lyle Hobbs** [illegible]

COUNTRY

COOK COUNTY SALOON *8010-103 St., 432 COOK (2665)* — **Wed Sat**, 8 pm, Apr - Dec **Thu - Sat**, Jan - Mar
COWBOYS COUNTRY SALOON *10180 180 St 481-8739* — Country/Top 40, dress code in effect, $5 cover charge
NEW WEST TAVERN *15025-111 Ave., 489-2511* — Country & honky tonk
WILD WEST SALOON *12912-50 St, 476-3388* — **Wed** Free beginners dance lessons 8 - 9:30 pm **Thu** Free intermediate dance lessons 7:30 - 9:30 pm

CONCERTS

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO — **Jan 5**, 8 pm. *Myer Horowitz, U of a campus* Tickets $28.50, $21.50 students/senior, available at TIX, Blackbyrd & Southside Sound
MOMENTS TO REMEMBER — **Jan 5**, 7 30 pm *Winspear Centre, Sir Winston Churchill Square* An evening of nostalgia with The Four Lads, The Aces & The Diamonds. Tickets $47-$57 at the Winspear box office
OPUS 27 — **Dec 28**, 7 pm. *Muttart Hall, MacEwan Campus, 10050 MacDonald Dr.* The Anne Burrows Musical Foundation hosts the annual concert, featuring talents of scholarship recipients & creating public awareness of the Foundation's operations Tickets $20 at TIX or at the door

OPEN STAGE

THURSDAY

180° RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB *10730-107 Ave., 414-0233* — Every **Thu** Hip Hop & open mic.
BACKDRAUGHT PUB *8307-99 St., 430-9200* — Open mic at 9 pm, everyone welcome.
BUDS LOUNGE *St. Albert, 458-3826* — Open stage 8 pm - 11 pm.
DUSTER'S PUB *6402-118 Ave., 474-5554 or 479-0997* — Jam session 9 pm, hosted by Brian Petch
J & R BAR *4003-106 St., 436-4403* — Open Stage 8.30 pm, hosted by The Poster Boys
JUGS PUB *7450-82 Ave., 465-4046* — Open mic night
NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR *10354 Jasper Ave., 425-9730* — Open stage 8 pm, bring your own instruments, poetry, etc
NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE *13535-109A Ave.* — Jam session 7 pm, hosted by the Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Association. Info Ray @ 457-9417
THE BLIND DUCK *10416-118 Ave., 479-7193* — Open stage hosted by Loren Burnstick, 9:30 pm - close

FRIDAY

GOBBLE GOBBLE *12831 Fort Rd* — 8 pm – 1 am, hosted by Jay.
WOODCROFT HALL *13915-115 Ave* — **Last Fri** of the month, 7:30 pm, hosted by the Uptown Folk Club

SATURDAY

BLUES ON WHYTE *10329-82 Ave., 439-5058* — Blues jam 3 - 8:30 pm
CHIMMY'S *8318-144 Ave. 478-1770* — Open stage jams 3 - 7 pm
JASPER PLACE HOTEL *15303 Stony Plain Rd., 489-1906* — Open Stage, 3 – 6 pm
MORANGO'S TEK CAFE *10118-79 St.* — 7 pm 10 pm, hosted by Tommy. Info: www.morangostekcafes.com
NEW WEST TAVERN *111 Ave & 151 St.* — Afternoon jam session at 3 pm
ROSIE'S *10315-124 St., 482-1600* — **Sat**, hosted by the Wonitha Thomas Band
THE DRUID *11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928* — 2 pm 6 pm. All ages open mic

SUNDAY

CARGO & JAMES TEA SHOPPE *10634-82 Ave.* — Open Stage 7 – 10 pm hosted by Rhea March
JASPER PLACE HOTEL *15326 Stony Plain Rd, 480-6444* — Open Stage hosted by Bruce Fox, 3 - 7 pm
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL *6108-90 Ave., 490-1999* — Open Stage w/ Willie James & Crawdad, 3 pm - 6 pm
NIKKI DIAMONDS *8130 Gateway Blvd., 439-8006* — Open Jam w/ Mike.
O'BYRNES IRISH PUB *10616-82 Ave., 414-6766* — Open Stage hosted by Joe Bird, 9 pm.
WUNDERBAR *8120-101 St., 436-2286* — Open stage country jamboree w/ Rob Jarvis.

MONDAY

KINGSWAY LEGION *10425 Kingsway* — 7 pm, Capital City Jammers.
LB'S PUB *23 Akins Dr., St Albert, 460-9100* — **Mon** Open stage w/ LB's house band.
PLEASANTVIEW HALL *10860-57 Ave* — 7 pm, Acoustic Instrumental old time fiddle jam hosted by the Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Society Info: Willy @ 474-5270.
RIGOLETTO'S CAFE *10068-108 St* — 7 pm.
SIDETRACK CAFE *10333-112 St., 421-1326* — **Every Mon** 8:30 pm, featuring Ben Spencer, NC
THE DRUID SOUTH *2940 Calgary Trail, 465 6800* — Open Stage w/ Chris Wynters, 9 pm

TUESDAY

BLIND PIG PUB *St Albert, 418-6332* — Evening jam w/ Mark Ammar
LEGENDS PUB *6104-172 St, 481-2786* — Open jam night
SECOND CUP *Churchill Square* — 7:30 pm hosted by Ron Taylor
THE DRUID *11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928* — Chris Wynters hosts open stage at 9 pm
YARDBIRD SUITE *10203-86 Ave., 432-0428* — Jam sessions 9 pm

WEDNESDAY

ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL *7704-104 St, 432-4611* — Open mic 8 pm, hosted by Duff
BUDS LOUNGE *Grandin Plaza, St Albert, 458-3826* — Acoustic jam 8 pm
CAFE BRITT *1-20 McLeod Ave, Spruce Grove* — Every **Wed**, 7-9 pm. Hosted by Eric Miller
FIDDLER'S ROOST *8906 99 St.* — 8 pm, Little Flower Open Stage w/ Brian Gregg $2 cover, doors 7 30 pm Info: www.littleflower.ca. or 429-3624
PLEASANTVIEW HALL *10860-57 Ave.* — Bluegrass jam session 7:30 pm hosted by the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society. Info 434-5997
ROSSDALE COMMUNITY HALL *10135-96 Ave.* — Little Flower open stage 8 - 11 pm, hosted by Brian Gregg. Info. 429-3624 or www little-flower ca
ROYAL CANADIAN BRANCH *10220 156 St* — Open stage jam, 9 pm w/ The Dino Dominelli Hot Five
THE LOCKER ROOM *10209-100 Ave* — Open Stage for comedians & musicians
THE NEW TAPHOUSE *9020 McKinney Ave, St Albert, 458-0860* — Jam session 9 pm, hosted by Danny Floyd

KARAOKE

ALBERT'S *9308-34 Ave.* — **Tue**, 9 pm, Prosound Productions
B-STREET BAR *11818-111 Ave 414-0545* — **Wed Sun** w/ Brad Scott
BILLY BOB'S LOUNGE *Continental Inn, 16625 Stony Pl. Rd, 484-7751* — **Thu-Sat**, Karaoke w/ Ed & Tara
BLIND PIG *32 St Anne St. St Albert 418-6332* — Karaoke every **Wed, Thu & Fri**
BLUE QUILL *326 Saddleback Rd. 434-3124* — **Fri & Sat**
BO-DIDDLY'S PUB & GRILL *4274-137 Ave 476-1918 or 377-0219* — **Thu** w/ Mr. Entertainment
BO-DIDDLY'S PUB & GRILL SOUTH *23 Ave. & 66 St., Millwoods Centre* — **Thu**, 9 30 pm w/ Mr Entertainment.
BORDERLINE PUB *3226-82 St, 462-1888* — **Thu - Sat**, 9:30 pm – 1.30 am.
BOSTON PIZZA BEVERLY *3303-118 Ave.* — **Sat**, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment.
BOSTON PIZZA NAIT *10115 Princess Elizabeth Ave.* — **Wed**, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment.
BROTHERS PUB *101100 Granada Blvd. Shwd Park* — **Sun**, 9.30 pm – 1:30 am.
BUD'S LOUNGE *[illegible] & 50 St* — **Fri & Sat**, 9 pm – 1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
BUD S LOUNGE *Londonderry [illegible] St & 137 Ave* — **Fri** 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment

CASSELWOOD PUB *14620-50 St., 473-1010* — Wed 9 30 pm – 1.30 am
CASTLEDOWN'S PUB *16753-100 St.* — **Tue**, 9 pm - 1 am, w/ Off-Key Entertainment
CHATEAU ON THE HILL *Beaumont* — **Fri**, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
CHICAGO JOE'S *9604-111 Ave. 479-4040* — **Fri** w/ Spoonz n' Toonz
CHIMMY'S *8318-144 Ave., 478-1770* — **Thu** & Fri, 9 pm w/ Wild Kenny
CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY PUB *37 Millbourne Rd.* — **Tue**, 9 pm, w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions
CLAREVIEW PUB *104, 550 Clareview Rd., 414-1111* — **Tue**, 10 pm - 2 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
CLIFF CLAYVIN'S *9710-105 St., 424-1614* — **Fri & Sat**, 10 pm – 2 am
CLIFF'S PUB & PARTY *175 St. & 88 Ave.* — **Sat & Sun** w/ Spoonz & Toonz Entertainment
CROWN & ANCHOR *15277-113 St.* — **Thu**, 9 pm w/ Shaun Donaldson.
DOC'S LOUNGE *15203 Stony Plain Rd., 486-1100* — **Wed**, **Fri & Sat**, 9:30 – 1:30 am
DOYLE'S PUB *2619-151 Ave., 473-1961* — **Fri & Sat**, 9·30 pm
ECCO PUB *9605-66 Ave.* — **Mon**, 9 pm w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions.
FOX PUB *10125-109 St 990-0680* — **Tue**, 9 pm Drink specials all night
FRANCO'S *14059 Victoria Tr., 478-4636* — **Thu - Sat**, Debra-Foe's karaoke 9 pm
FRANKLIN'S PARK LOUNGE *2016 Sherwood Dr Shwd Park* — **Fri & Sat**, 10 pm – 2 am
FUNKY BUDDHA *10341-82 Ave.* — **Sun**, 9:30 pm, w/ Mr Entertainment
GAS PUMP *10166-114 St 488-4841* — **Tue & Wed**, 9 pm - 2 am, w/ Gord's Live Jukebox
H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE *10044-82 Ave., 433-5794* — **Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun.**
HAWKEYE'S TOO *10044-102 St 101-2324* — **Fri**, 8 pm - 12 am, w/ Deb Thulin - Hot Karaoke Prod.
HILLVIEW PUB *311 Woodvale Rd. W., Millwoods, 462-0468* — **Fri**, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
HOLIDAY INN *4520-76 Ave.* — **Thu**, 8.30 pm, w/Prosound Productions
HORSHU LOUNGE *137 Ave. & 58 St.* — **Mon & Sat**, 10 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
INGLEWOOD PUB *12402-118 Ave., 451-1390* — **Thu - Sat**, 9·30 pm - 2 am w/ Mr Entertainment
JD'S POLAR PUB *6825-83 St., 413-1883* — **Thu & Fri**, 9 pm.
JUGS PUB *7450-82 Ave., 465-4046* — **Sat**, 9 pm.
KELLY'S *11540 Jasper Ave., 451-8825* — **Sun & Wed.**
KINGSKNIGHT PUB *9221-34 Ave., 433-2599* — **Thu**, Smirking Jay 9 pm
KNIGHTS PUB *11860-145 Ave.* —**Tue, Thu - Sat** w/ Mr. Entertainment
KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH *1919-105 St., 461-0587* — **Fri & Sat**, 10 pm - 2 am w/ Gord's Live Jukebox
KOSMOS *5011-50 Ave., Leduc, 986-3122* — **Wed & Sat**, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.
L. B.'S PUB *23 Akins Dr., St. Albert, 460-9100* — **Tue** w/ the Karaokenuts & **Thu** w/ Hot Tunes, 9:30 pm – 1 am
LA PERLE BAR & GRILL *9746 182 St., 930-1123* — **Wed** Spoonz N Toonz
LE GLOBE *149 St. & Stony Plain Rd., 489-1022* — **Mon - Thu & Sat**, 9 pm
LEGENDS PUB *#105, 6104-172 St., 481-2786* — **Wed**, 9 pm
LOCKER ROOM *10209-100 Ave., 428-6442* — Mon & Fri.
MAZADAR *10725-104 Ave.* — **Fri**, 5 pm, w/ Chris. Info: 429-4940
METRO BILLIARDS *10250-106 St., 990-0704* — **Tue**, 10 pm – 2 am w/ Lounge Lizard Ent
MICHAEL'S *11730 Jasper Ave., 482-4767* — **Mon**, w/ Mr Entertainment
MILTON'S CAFÉ & BAR *10235-124 St, 451-8188* — **Fri, Sat,** Starts at 4 pm
MOJO'S *Fort Sask Best Western Hotel 10115-88 Ave.* **Fri**, 9:30 pm w/Sonia/Prosound Productions.
MONA LISA PUB *9606-1180 Ave., 477-7752* — Every **Wed**, 9 pm-1 am, hosted by Cathy, **Sat** w/ Jason.
MUGGN'Z PUB *6655-178 St.* — **Wed & Sat**
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL *6108-90 Ave., 490-1999* — **Thu**, 9 pm, w/ Devan Lane & Brittany
NIKKI DIAMONDS *8130 Gateway Blvd.* — **Mon**, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Gord from Stone Rock Entertainment
O'CONNORS IRISH PUB *9013-88 Ave., 469-8165* — **Thu**, 9 pm - 1 am.
ON THE ROCKS *11740 Jasper Ave., 482-4767* — **Mon**, 9:30 pm, Drink the Bar Dry Karaoke w/ Scott Parsons & Mr Entertainment.
ORLANDO'S I *15163-121 St., 457-1195* — **Every Wed, Thu & Sun**, 9:30 pm-2 am
ORLANDO'S II *13509-127 St., 451-7799* — **Tue & Wed**, 9 pm - 1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.
ORLANDO'S III *6104-104 St.* — **Mon**, 9 pm - 1 am, w/ Off-Key Entertainment.
OVERLAND LOUNGE *12960 St. Albert Tr.* — **Fri** 9 pm – 1 am **Sat** 9 pm – 1 am w/ Off-Key.
PARKLAND PUB *30-53222 RR 272, Spruce Grove 960-6871* — **Every Sat**, 9 pm - 1 am, starting Sep 17, Karaoke contest. 1st prize $600
PEPPERS *320 Westmount Centre, 113 Ave. & 135 St., 451-8022* — **Thu**, 9:30 pm - 1:30 pm w/ Gord from Stone Rock Entertainment.
PLAYBACK PUB *594 Hermitage Rd. 475-2309* — **Thu** 9 pm hosted by Cathy, cash prizes.
RATTLESNAKE SALOON *9261-34 Ave., 438-8878* — **Tue - Sat**, karaoke corral, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL *11715-108 Ave., 447-4727* — **7 days a week**, 9 pm.
ROSE BOWL PIZZA *10111-117 St., 482-5152 or 482-2589* — **Wed & Sat**
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL *10315-124 St., 482-1600* — **Wed - Sat**, 9:30 pm hosted by Ron Burgess
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL *10475-80 Ave., 439-7211* — **Thu - Sat**, 9:30 pm – 1:30 am
ROSIE'S BAR *63 Ave. & 99 St.* — **Thu - Sat**, 9 pm w/ Off-key
ROSIE'S LOUNGE *10604-101 St., 423-3499* — **Mon**, 9 pm: Triveoke **Tue - Sat**, 9 pm: Karaoke
SAK'S ON 51 ST *10525-51 Ave.* — **Fri & Sat**
SANDS HOTEL *12340 Ft. Rd.* — **Fri**, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
SCHOLARS *Quad 13 11113-87 Ave.* — **Sun & Tue**, 9 30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon Street, WEM* — **Sun**, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
SILVER BULLET *4703-97 St., 437-6203* — **Every Tue**, karaoke contest.
SILVER MARTINI *10668-156 St, 484-9753* — **Thu & Sat**, 9 pm w/ Prosound Productions
SMITTY'S *Northgate Mall, South side entrance* — **Sat**, 9 pm. *478-7731*
SMITTY'S WESTMOUNT *Groat Rd. & 111 Ave.* — **Thu**, 9:30 pm - 1 am.
SMOK'N JOES ROADHOUSE *615 Hermitage Rd., 476-6122* — **Wed** w/ Rockin Kenny
SPIKES RESTAURANT & LOUNGE *99 St & 32 Ave., 430-3663* — **Fri & Sat** w/ TLC entertainment.
SPORTSMANS LOUNGE *145 8107-50 St.* — **Thu**, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.
SPORTSWORLD INLINE & ROLLER SKATING DISCO *13710-104 St., 472-6336* — **Tue, Fri & Sat** 7 pm - 12 am **Sat & Sun**, 1 pm - 5 pm
STRATHERN PUB *9514-87 St., 465-5478* — **Wed & Fri**
THE DRUID *11606 Jasper Ave.* — **Wed**, 9:30 pm w/ Mr Entertainment.
THE DRUID SOUTH *2945 Calgary Trail South* — **Wed**, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
THE FRAT *10320-102 Ave. 428-3733* — **Every Tue**, 9 pm w/ Peter from Mr. Entertainment.
THE NEST *NAIT Main Campus* — **Every Wed**, 4:30 pm - 8 pm.
THE NEW TAPHOUSE *9020 McKinney Ave., St. Albert, 458-0860* — **Tue** hosted by Jay & Mr. Entertainment.
THORSBY HOTEL *Thorsby, AB* — **Sat** 9.30 pm-1·30 am w/ Sonia/Prosound.
THYME TO DINE *15505-118 Ave* — **Fri & Sat**, 9 pm – 1 am
TODAY'S PUB *5224-86 St.* — **Fri & Sat**, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Big Time Entertainment.
WINSTON'S PUB *9016-132 Ave.* — **Wed, Fri & Sat**, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
WOODY'S *117258 Jasper Ave. (Upstairs), 488-6636* — **Sat & Mon** w/ Tizzy, **Sun & Tue** w/ Patrick.
X-WRECKS *10143-50 St.* — **Wed** 7:30 pm- 11:30 pm w/ Sonia/Prosound.
YESTERDAY'S *Boudreau Rd., St. Albert, 459-0295* — **Thu**, 9:30 pm - 2 am w/ Off-Key Entertainment

FREE STUFF

CALL TO WIN

It is with rockin' good cheer and charitable tidings this Holiday Season, that *SEE Magazine* revamps its regular Free Stuff contest. Instead of the weekly call-in trivia madness, *SEE* will be accepting donations for the Food Bank as part of our weekly movie pass giveaway. The first 10 people to visit the *SEE* office on **THURSDAY, Dec 21 at 1 pm** —and not one minute before!—with a non-perishable food donation for the Food Bank will receive a double guest pass to see *Volver* at the Garneau Theatre, or *Little Children* or *Snow Cake* at the Princess Theatre.

SEE will be also accepting Food Bank donations throughout the holiday season, up until the New Year, should any feel so inclined to give without receiving prizes.

Happy Whatever-Holiday-Suits-You from the gang at *SEE Mag!* Please do consider others less fortunate, and have a helluva good festive season.

EVENTS

NOTEBOOK MAGAZINE LAUNCH — Dec 22, doors at 7:30 pm. *Velvet Underground, 10030-102 St.* Notebook is a new, quarterly magazine profiling Edmonton artists and writers. The launch party will feature contributors, poetry readings, and music with Hector Fector, Christian Hansen, AA Sound System & Radiovacana. Tickets $15, includes a copy of issue #1.

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS — Dec 21 *Westwood Unitarian Congregation, 11135-65 Ave.* Three different services: Family oriented service: 7 pm, childcare available. Adult services at 9 pm & 11 pm. All services incorporate earth-based & pagan elements, singing & music celebrating the return of light after the Solstice. Short reception, baked goodies & mulled apple cider follows each service. Info: www.westwoodunitarian.ca or 434-5819.

EXHIBITS

AGNES BUGERA GALLERY *12310 Jasper Ave., 482-2854* — **Until Dec 31** Works by Ernestine Tahedl, Ian Rawlinson, Mandy Boursicot, Grant McConnell, Stuart Slind, Gillian Lindsay, Michael Den Hertog & others. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: www.agnesbugeragallery.com.
ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL *455 King St., Spruce Grove* — **Until Dec 23** Christmas store in the Little Church Gallery. Food bank donations welcome. Info: 962-0664
ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL *10186-106 St. 488-6611 ext. 221.*
ART BEAT GALLERY *26 St. Anne St., St. Albert, 459-3679* — Hours: Tue, Wed & Fri, 10 am - 6 pm, Thu, 10 am - 8 pm, Sat, 10 am - 5 pm. Info: www.artbeat.ab.ca
ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA *2 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 422-6223* — **Until Feb 19**: *Far & Wide. Alberta Landscapes*, by David Alexander & John Hartman; *ISUMA: To Have an Idea*, a survey exhibition of films produced by Igoolik Isuma Productions, Canada's first independent Inuit production company; *Ashoona: Third Wave*, new drawings by Shuvinai Ashoona, Siassie Kenneally & Annie Pootoogook, all descendants of the famed Cape Dorset artist Pitseolak Ashoona; *Three Travellers*, works of Edmonton artists Scott Berry, Louis O'Coffey & Leo Wong. In the Children's Gallery: *Alphabet Soup*, an interactive space for children to explore different methods of drawing, featuring works by Lorna Bennett. Info: www.artgalleryalberta.com.
ART MODE GALLERY *12220 Jasper Ave.* — Open Tue - Sun. Info: www.artmode.com
ARTS HAB STUDIO GALLERY *3rd fl., 10217-106 St 439-9532* — **Until Dec 28**, *Tangled Reflections*, paintings and drawings by artists of the Coloured Web School of Art, and new works by ArtsHab residents Open Every Thu, 5 pm – 8 pm. Info: www.artsHab.com
ARTS & SCIENCE BY MARCE & MARCE — Featuring dimensional paintings by Brenda Marce. By appointment, *435-5838.*
BANYAN TREE GALLERY *10336-107 St., 425-2727* — Featuring contemporary South Asian artworks, furniture, jewelry and more. Info: info@banyantreegallery ca
BEARCLAW GALLERY *10403-124 St.* — **Until Dec 31** Holiday exhibition of new works by gallery artists, featuring wood carvings, mixed media, masks, soapstone & sculpture. Info: 482-1204.
BOHEMIA CYBER CAFÉ *11012 Jasper Ave.* — Info: www.bohemiacafe.ca/about html.
BRINSMEAD ZIOLA KENNEDY ARCHITECTURE *10434-122 St.* — Hours: Mon - Fri 8 am - 5 pm.
CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA *9103-95 Ave.* — **Until Dec 22** Normand Fontaine's mixed media, Marco Laperriere's mixed media & photography, Claude Garneau's acrylics & glass etchings, and Gisele Gregoire's paintings on stone. Info: 461-3427.
CHRISTL BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY *9621-82 Ave.* — View the web site at www.redgallery.ca. Hours: Mon - Fri, 11 am - 5 pm; Sat by appointment, 439-8210.
CLAYWORKS STUDIO LINK *10125-81 Ave. 433-8866* — Info: 433-8866 after 1 pm.
COLLECTIV CONTEMPORARY ART *6507-112 Ave, 491-0002* — **Until Dec 23**, holiday shopping hours Mon-Fri 12 noon – 5:30 pm, open Thu until 8 pm. Sat 10 am – 5:30 pm & Sun 12 noon- 4 pm. Info: www collectiv.ca.
CRAFTMAN'S COVE *Westmount Shopping Centre, 454-2656* — Tole Painting and Victorian Music Boxes by Bev Runolfson.
DESTINA GALLERY *10727-124 St., 488-8720* — Hours: Wed - Sat, 11 am - 5 pm.
DISCOVERY GALLERY *10186-106 St., main floor* — Hours: Mon - Sat, 10 am - 5:00 pm.
DOUGLAS UDELL GALLERY *10332-124 St.* — **Until Dec 23** Christmas show 2006 with new works by gallery artists, featuring Nathan Birch Hours Tue-Fri, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm. Info. 488 4445
ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO *12419 Stony Plain Rd 482-1402.*
ERIC'S GALLERY *#414 Southgate Centre* www.vertigodesign/pecasart
EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY *2nd Fl Extension Centre, 8303-112 St* Until Jan 1 *Those Among Us*, realist & encaust by Izabella Orzelski-Konikowski & B Koral-Konikowski Hours: Mon-Thu 8 pm, Fri 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9 a Info: www.extension.ualberta ca
FAB GALLERY *1-1 Fine Arts Building, U of Campus* — **Until Dec 23** *Science=Magic* visual presentation by Ike Bushman, M Printmaking. Also showing *Painting Visual Diary*, exhibited studies made um artifacts and on location at Pomp Herculaneum, Vesuvius, Naples, and sented unframed to facilitate a studio Accompanying photographs and pre by students. Hours: Tues - Fri, 10 am Sat, 2 - 5 pm.
FORT DOOR *10308-81 Ave., 432-753* Mon - Wed, 10 am - 6 pm, Thu & Fr 9 pm; Sat, 10 am - 6 pm; Sun, 12 - 5
FRAME OF MIND *6150-90 Ave* — Hours 10-6 closed Sun.
FRINGE GALLERY *10516 Whyte Ave 432 024* **Throughout Dec** Digital images by A. Thompson **Jan** Cynthia Gardiner sol
FRONT GALLERY *12312 Jasper Ave, 488 295* Hours: Tues - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm
GALLERIA OF CRAFTERS & ARTISANS *Capilano Mall* — Local art in various media Open 7 days a week.
GALLERY AT MILNER *Stanley Milner Library 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square* — Hours Mon Fri am - 9 pm, Sat, 9 am - 6 pm, Sun, 1 pm - 5 pm
GLASS HAPPENINGS *17324-106A Ave* — Info 484-8388
HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY *3rd floor 10215-112 St., 426-4180* — **Until Dec 23** *Cowboys & Indians (and Metis?)*, paintings by David Garneau. Info: www.harcourthouse ab ca
HUMAN ECOLOGY GALLERY *U of A, 89 Ave & 116 St.* — Hours: Mon - Fri, 7 am - 9 pm, Sat 8 pm - 4 pm, Sun, 12 pm - 4 pm
JEFF ALLEN GALLERY *Strathcona Seniors Centre 10831 University Ave. 433-5807* — **Until Jan** Christmas Show and Sale, featuring sev the artists exhibited at the Jeff Allen G throughout 2006. **Jan 9-Feb 1** *Vibrant Art* Paul Martel.
JOHNSON GALLERY *7711-85 St.* — Edmonton Painters, artists working in-studio. Info susa ma.com
KAMENA GALLERY & FRAMES *5718-104 St 944-9497* — Photography by Wei Wong Chinese calligraphy on rice paper of many co Willie Wong, prints from *Celebratin* by Larissa Sembaliuk Cheladyn, Northern Li & floral watercolour by Willie Wong Hours Mon - Fri, 10 am - 6 pm, Thu 10 am - 8 pm 10 am - 5 pm.
LANDO GALLERY *11130-105 Ave., 990-1161* — **Until Dec 22** Three separate solo shows *Frozen in Time*, photography by Michael Levir *Horizons*, photography by Eric Fredine & *Tree of Life*, paintings by Tslila Barzel Hours Mon - Fri, 10 am - 5:30 pm & Sat, 10 am 4:30 pm, Sun by appointment. Visit www.lando gallery.com for info.
LATITUDE 53 *10248-106 St., 423-5353* — info www.latitude53 org.
LITTLE CHURCH GALLERY *455 King St Spruce Grove* — Info: 962-0664
LOFT GALLERY *AJ Ottewell Arts Centre 590 Broadmoor Blvd., Sherwood Pk. 449 4443* — Artist-run gallery through the Strathco Art Society. Frequent rotation of artist's work, also offering mixed art classes including watercolor oil, acrylic & photography techniques. Open Saturdays 10 am -5 pm.
MCMULLEN GALLERY *8440-112 St., 407-715* **Until Jan 14** *Alberta/Within Limits*, a dual exhibition of photographic and ceramic works by the Monochrome Guild And Sask Terra Group Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 8 pm; Sat & Sun, 1 8 pm. Admission: Free.
MINISTIK POTTERY & SCULPTURE STUDIO *37 51049, RR 214, Sherwood Park, 662 4160* Horst Doll's sculptures. Info: www.horst-sculpture.ca.
MODERN EYES GALLERY & GIFT *Downtown (in the same building as Ric's Grill) St. Albert, 459-9102* — Carrying works by painters Graham Flatt, Ian Sheldon, Georgia Graham, Lorraine Oberg, sculptures by Roy Leadbeater Delores Corbett, and Fred Oberg Magg Antique furniture, Kitras glass Mogado with a Kiss 10% off Open edition up to 40% off Hours Tues Sat
MULTICULTURAL PUBLIC ART GALLERY St, Stony Plain Until **Jan 14** Think the Pot, ceramics exhibition In the D Gallery paintings by Lorraine Bread Daily, 10 am - 4 pm, Sun 10 am Info. 963-2777.
MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM *5 St. Anne St., St. Albert, 459-1528* — Hours: Mon - Sat, 10 am 5 pm; & Sun, 1 - 5 pm. Admission: Suggested donation of $2.
MUTTART CONSERVATORY *9626-96A St* — Info 496-8787.
NAKED CYBER CAFÉ *10354 Jasper Ave* — Info

...95-9730.

...HAGGERTY CENTRE *9702-111 Ave., 474-* ... The centre closes early for three weeks ... the holiday season Hours Mon - Fri, 10 ... 2 30 pm, Tue & Thu 6 pm – 8 pm Info ... ninahaggertyart.ca.

...ONA GALLERY *9722 102 St., 439-6943* — ... Sat & Sun, 12 - 5 pm.

...ROBERTSON GALLERY *10183 112 St* — ... Jan 14 Frances Thomas' lush colour ... ons on mylar & Robert Wiseman's ... fantastical landscapes Hours Tue Sat ... 5 30 pm Thu 10 am – 8 pm

...THIS *959 Ordze Rd, Sherwood Park on ...* - Info 467 3038

...PUBLIC ART GALLERY *19 Perron St. St ...* — Until Dec 30 Presence ...

...NCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA *8555 Roper ... 1750* — **Until Jan 25** *A Joyful Harvest* saluting 100 people, places and orga... that have defined Jewish life in south... ...erta since 1889. Hours: Tues – Sat 9 am- ... Wed 9 am 9 pm

...DEER ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY *4930 Ross St, Red Deer 403-341-4641* —

...STRAP MARKET *10305-97 St., 497-2211* — **Until Dec 31** Renny Hart presents *The Blackboard Jungle*, a show & sale of new works ...turing some of the most unusual & rare mem... of the animal kingdom. Hours: Tue - Sun, 11 am 5 pm.

...WLES & COMPANY *10130-103 St, 426-4035* ... ng over 100 Western Canadian artists ... acrylic, water-colour painting, bronze, ... glass, metal, moose antler carving & soapstone. 'Westin: acrylics by Kathryn ...erman Scotia Place: water colours & acrylics by Frances Alty-arscott. Sun Life Place: oils by George Schwindt & acrylics by Bi Y Cheng. ... Weekdays, 9 am - 5 pm, Sat, Noon - 5 pm. Info www.rowles.ab.ca

...YAL ALBERTA MUSEUM *12845-102 Ave, 453-* ... **Until Jan 1** *Models of historical* ... the Northern Alberta Lego Users Groups showcase 11 models of historic Edmonton structures, including the High Level ..., the Msiericordia Hospital, a grain eleva... ... train display. **Until Jan 18** Allan ... *...eless Beauty of Platinum Photography*

...THERFORD SOUTH LIBRARY *U of A Campus* — ... Mon - Fri, 12 pm - 4:30 pm.

...ERY GALLERY *10137-104 St., 423-4484* — Hours Tue - Sat, 10 am - 7 pm.

...TT GALLERY *10411 - 124 St* — **Until Dec 23** ...ery's "Christmas Treasures", featuring paintings by Vladimir Horik, Katerina ... Harold Feist, sculpture by David ... pottery by Carol & Richard Selfridge, and intimate still-life images by new gallery ... Linda O'Neill. Info: 488-3619 or ... scottgallery.com.

...ERS STUDIO GALLERY *9th Floor CN Tower, ...25-6885* — Info: www.hungryartist.ca.

...IDGE POTTERY STUDIO *9844-88 Ave. 439-...76* — Info: www.selfridgeceramicart.ca

...ENDIPITY GALLERY *9860-90 Ave., 433-0388* New oils by Rhonda Harder-Epp, water... ...y Friedrich Pater R C A, ceramic masks ... Maurice Lwambwa-Tshang, collages by ...lvia Grist and new ceramics by Debra ...mers-Bryan.

...P GALLERY *Society of Northern Alberta Print ...tists, 10309-97 St., 423-1492* — Hours: Tues ... Sat Noon - 5 pm. Info: snap@snapartists.com

...CTRUM ART GALLERY *9418-91 St.* — Featuring ...0 Western Canadian artists. Hours: Tue - Sat, 11 am 9 pm.

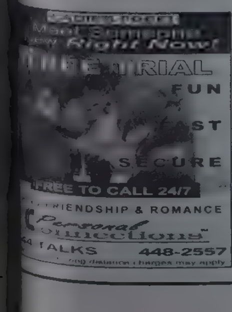
...NLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY GALLERY *Sir ...inston Churchill Square, 496-7063*

...ALBERT PAINTER'S GUILD *St. Albert Place, #5 St. Anne St.*

...ATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES *...913 Ash St., Sherwood Park 476-8189* — Hours Mon-Fri 10 am - 4 pm. Info: ... strathconacounty museum ca.

...DIO GALLERY *11 Perron St., St. Albert, 460-...993* — **Until Dec 31** "Small Works" by Studio ... Hours: Tues - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm; Sat, 10 ... - 4 pm By appointment: 460-5990.

...S WORLD OF SCIENCE *(AKA Edmonton's ... & Science Centre) 11211-142 St., 451-...344* — Permanent Exhibits: *The Body ...*, *Mystery Avenue, The Greens' House, ... Place, Discoveryland & DinoDen* in the ... Gallery Syncrude Science Stage ... emos Cryogenics, Electricity, What ... fizz in Soda Pop? Info: 451-3344, www.odyssium.com.



TIFFANY'S DECOR *10135 82 Ave 43...* Feat French art by R... neon art ... theatre signs H...

TRANSALTA BARNS *10330-84 Ave* — Hours: 11 am - 8 pm

TU GALLERY *10718-124 St.* — Info 452-9662 or www tugallery ca

URBAN ROOTS ...

VAAA GALLERY ... Until Dec 23 ...

VISION IMAGES GALLERY ...

WEST END GALLERY ...

WILDWOOD GALLERY ... *325 5904* ... unique original works in metal wood & clay ...

WORKS GALLERY *10155 Jasper Ave., Main Floor* Info 42...

ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY & SERENDIPITY FRAMING *9860-90 Ave., 433-0388* — Anahuacalli Mexican jewellery & art works by Canadian and Mexican artists and artisa... Wed, 10 am - 6 pm, ... 8 pm; Sat, Noon - 8 pm, Sun & Mon, Noon - 5 pm.

MUSEUMS

ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM *11410 Kingsway Ave., 451-1175* — Edmonton bush pilot display in WWII-era double-wide, double long hangar Hours. Daily, 10 am - 4 pm

CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES *10440-108 Ave 496-8710* More than 50,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present Two display galleries Free admission Hours Weekdays 8 30 am 4 30 pm

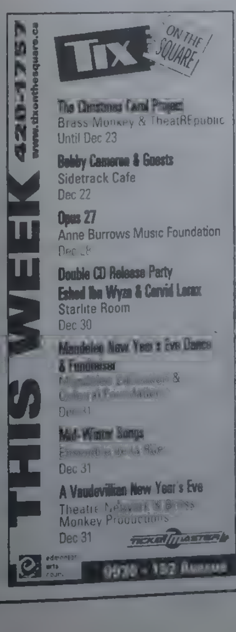
JOHN WALTER MUSEUM ... *8787* — Admission is free, donations ... accepted. Info: www.edmonton.ca/...

LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM *118, Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, 10440 108 Ave* — Current exhibition: *The Battle of Ortona Dec 1943* Displaying artifacts, photographs, documents, and texts on one of Canada's most important battles of World War II, Hours: Weekdays, 10 am - 4 pm.

MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM *... St Anne St St Albert 459 1528* — Hours, Mon - Sat 10 am 5 pm; & Sun, 1 - 5 pm. Admission Suggested donation of $2 Info and registration 459 1528

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM *12845-102 Ave., 453-9100* — **Permanent Exhibitions**. *Wild Alberta* explores Alberta's natural habitat. *The Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture* traces the extraordinary history of Alberta's Aboriginal peoples from the end of the Ice Age to the present day. *The Natural History Gallery* explores some of the extraordinary changes the Alberta region has experienced, and how these changes were written in the rocks Info 453-9100 Hours Mon - Sun, 9 am - 5 pm Ticket prices & Info: www.RoyalAlbertaMuseum.ca.

TELEPHONE MUSEUM *Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre 10444-108 Ave., 433-1010* — Hours: Tue – Fri, 10 am – 3 pm. Admission by donation.



NEW YEARS EVE

ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL *7704-104 St 432-4611* — ...

BLACK DOG *10425 82 Ave 439-1082* — Edmonton's own Headband & guests Tickets $10

BLUES ON WHYTE ...

C3 METRO NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL ...

CASINO YELLOWHEAD ... ABBA

CASINO EDMONTON ...

GEIL'S ... Entertainment w/ ..., Diner & dance ... 9.99 dance only $10

C... NYE 2006 ... Connected Entertainment presents Shout Out Out Out Out w/ MSTRKRFT, Luke ... Tickets $30, $50 & $75. available at Blackbyrd, Foosh, YESS Hair Connected & TM. Info ...

DANTE'S BISTRO ... "Casino Royale 007" Completely immerse yourself in the world of Bond, dress as your fave Bond character to win the Best Bond/Best Bond Girl contest Live entertainment ... (Motown & Latin Dance), Pluso & Casino Royale Go Go dancers Tickets. $29 (dance only), or $95-$109 including dinner

DUKE'S BAR & GRILL *12650-151 Ave. 476-3853* — Three course dinner & dance, tickets $30

DUSTER'S PUB *6402-118 Ave., 474-0997* — Live music with Liar.

FESTIVAL PLACE *100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park 449-3378* New Year's ...

FEVER NIGHTCLUB ... Theatre Semi-formal Advance tickets $24 99.

FOUR ROOMS *137 Edmonton City Centre, 426-4767* — Classic Hollywood party w/ Don Berner Trio, hosted by special guest vocalist Shannon Tyler. Tickets $35 per person

THE FOX — Black & White NYE ... black & white attire Prizes & prizes ... night Tickets $5

IRON HORSE *8101 103 St 438-1907* — Eves Wide Shut Party Advance tix ...

JAZZY NEW YEAR ... *Top of the Inn* - The Best is Yet to Come gala, featuring the Tuxedo Junkies Tickets $120, including dinner, party favours, champagne & more Call 637-2789 or 420-1757 to ...

JEKYLL & HYDE PUB *10610-100 Ave, 426-6381* — Live concert with vintage rockers Headwind Dinner $25, after dinner cover $5. Proceeds will be donated to Santa's Anonymous ...

LATIN NEW YEAR'S EVE ... *Gateway Blvd* — featuring ... Band, Esquna/Latina Latin Corner Salsa performances, DJ Moreno & DJ ...

...

MANDELEO FUNDRAISER ... Education & Cultural Foundation hosts this fundraiser, proceeds going towards programs in Uganda for orphans, youth and women's development. The evening features African culture & entertainment, dance, drumming, music and excellent food ...

MID-WINTER SONGS CONCERT ...

NEW ASIAN VILLAGE ...

NEW CITY *10081 Jasper Ave 429-CLUB* — The 10th Legendary New ... 7 pm. No advance ...

ON THE ROCKS ... $20, includes party favours & champagne

OVERTIME BOILER & TAPROOM ... party only $40

POWERPLANT *U of A campus* — Masquerade Gala w/ The Frosted Tipz, Bebo Cortez & The Mark Birtles Project Ticket ...

ROSE & CROWN PUB *10235 101 St 42...* music by Don Johnston Tickets $21 95-...

ROXY THEATRE *10708-124 St, 453-2440* — "A Vaudevillian New Year's Eve" with Bill Bourne, Tippy Agogo, Mile Zero Dance, Lourelle, art by Tim Folkma...

SHERLOCK HOLMES PUBS ...

SIDETRACK CAFÉ *10238-104 St, 421-1326* — NYE w/ The Superband Tickets $17 advance, $20 at the door, includes party favours

STARLITE ROOM & VELVET UNDERGROUND *10030-102 St., 428-1099* — Party with Mad Bombers Society, Murder City Sparrows, The Igniters ... Special guest DJ ... 8 pm

STONEHOUSE PUB *11012 Jasper Ave 420-...* — ... Tickets $10 includes champagne & party favours

THE COMIC STRIP *Bourbon St WEM 483-5999* — New Years ... 2007 with Rob Pue, Rick Bronson & Lars Callerou follwed by a post-show dance party Different packages available, call 483-5999 for info

THE ONE ON WHYTE — Social Code, Ten Second Epic & The Burnin' Sand... Tickets $40, includes bottle of champagne & party favours

TROCADERO ORCHESTRA *Coast Terrace Inn Ballroom, 4440 Gateway Blvd.* — Join the Trocadero Orchestra for dinner & dance Tickets $89 available at TIX or the Coast Terrace Inn

MEETINGS

ADHD SUPPORT *Glenrose Hospital 10230 111 Ave.* — **Every first & third Tue**, ADA/CH.A.D.D. hosts an adult support meeting for attention disorders Info 406-5212

ALBERTA ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION *The Faculty Club, 11435 Sask Dr.* — **Every third Tue**, 5.30 pm - 9 pm Pre-register at www.aea.ab.ca.

BUSINESS & BEYOND TOASTMASTERS CLUB *U of A, BUS B9* — **Every Mon**, 6:30 pm. Practice and enhance your communication, leadership & public speaking Info 492 ... www.bbtc.ca.

CHAMBER TOASTMASTERS CLUB — **Every Thu**, 6 pm. Visit and learn how to deliver effective presentations, conduct business meetings, and develop as a communicator and leader. Info: 459-5206

CHRISTOPHER LEADERSHIP COURSE — Non-profit organization that offers effective public speaking courses Deal with nervousness, develop effective speaking skills and explore leadership potential Info 468 6495

CORNERSTONE COUNSELLING CENTRE — OASIS ... and Safe Informative Support, is a group program for people who live with someone, or are close friends with someone, who suffers from severe depression or mental illness. Info: www.cornerstonecounselling com.

CRANKPOTS *Crankpots ceramic studio, 10702-82 Ave.* — Free "Happy Hour" painting workshops **Mon - Thu**, 10 am - 2 pm Info: 414-1005

CSS WORKSHOPS *Catholic Social Services offices* — Call 420-6081 for info & registration.

THE EDMONTON NATURE CLUB Monthly meetings at the *Royal Alberta Museum* Info ebc.fanweb.ca.

ENTERPRISERS' FORUM TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Meets **Mondays** (Tuesdays after long weekends), 12 noon at the *Royal Glenora Club*. Try us out - delicious buffet lunch, supportive and fun-filled environment, learning communication and leadership skills. Info. 922-3835.

ENTHUSIASTIC SENIORS TOASTMASTERS *11113 ...* First & third Tue ... 1.30pm. Become an effective ... relaxed speaker. Info: 405-6408

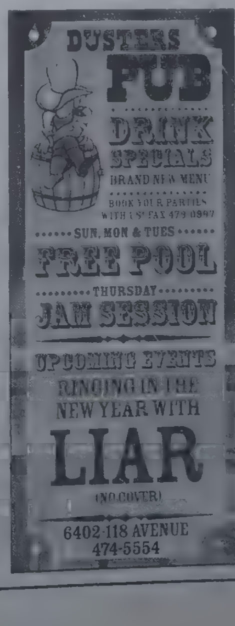
EQUITABLE CHILD MAINTENANCE & ACCESS SOCIETY ... — **Every second Mon**, 7 pm Info www ecmas org

FASTLIFE SPEED DATING — Canada's most stylish speed dating & singles event service. Invitation only events take place in Edmonton every week To attend an event, register online at www.fastlife ca

FAVA *Ortona Armoury, 9722-102 St., 429-1671* — **Every Mon**, 7 - 10 pm. Monday Night Club ... scene for camera. Call 429-1671 or visit FAVA.ca

HIP MAMAS MEET-UP GROUP — A group of young mothers and their babies meet several times a week for activities and attend events together Free to join, plenty of friends to be made Info hipmama.meetup com/151/

IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB — 2nd & 4th



Thu of the month, 8 pm *Allendale School 6415 – 106 St.* Informative, entertaining presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, monthly and year-end competitions. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Visitors may attend 3x before joining. Membership: individual $40, Family (2+ at same address) $50, full-time students $20. For further info see www.imagesab.ca or call Sheila 469-9776

JUBILEE TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Every Tue, 7 pm *ABC Country Restaurant, 12707-140 Ave.* Gain confidence & hone your communication skills one-on-one or with groups. Info www.jubileetm.ca

LADIES COFFEE NIGHT — Every Wed, 7 pm. *Dairy Queen, Westmount Village.* Meeting to stop oppression & raise awareness of women's rights. Info: 637-6613

NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB *11150-82 St* — Every Thu, 8-10 pm. Improve public speaking & communication skills. Info: 424-2707 or www.norwoodtoastmasters.org

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED NETWORKING GROUP *Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, #600, 10123-99 St.* — Every Fri, 6:45 - 8:30 am: Develop new business relationships and hear keynote speaker Terry Scheirls. Admission: $2, everyone welcome. Info: 426-4620.

OXFAM CANADA *University of Alberta, Tory 4-10* — Every second Wed of the month, 6:30 pm. Human rights based group that works on social justice issues through education & advocacy. Info: ox_ed@yahoo.ca.

PARAGON TOASTMASTERS CLUB *Downtown* — Every Thu, noon - 1 pm. Improve your listening, thinking & speaking skills. Info: 427-0552 or 905-6803

POWERSPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Every Wed, 7 pm -9 pm. *MacEwan Centre for the Arts, 10045-156 St. Rm 437.* Develop effective public speaking & communication skills in a fun, dynamic & supportive environment. Info: 483-0312.

PURSUERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Every Wed, 7 pm. *Best Western – Cedar Park Inn, Calgary Trail & 51 Ave.* Become more confident speaking to groups & individuals through our proven program. Info: www.pursuers.org.

SCREENWRITERS CIRCLE *Fava Site* — First Tue of every month, 7:30 pm. Established & budding screenwriters discuss craft & share works-in-progress. Info 429-1671 or visit FAVA.ca

SOS TOASTMASTERS — *St. Albert High School Library,* Jan 8, 7:30 pm. Learn public speaking and leadership skills in a non-profit self-paced environment. Info: 459-7475

SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE LIVING WITH THE MENTALLY ILL — *Cornerstone Counselling Centre, 11111 Jasper Ave., 482-6215.* First & third Wed of each month, 7 pm

THE OUTSIDERS SUPPORT GROUP — Every Wed, 7 - 8:30 pm. A support group for families and friends of loved ones who are incarcerated or on parole. Providing emotional support, info and a place to share. Info. 471-1122

TOASTMASTERS CLUB *7103-105 St.* — Every Tue, 7 pm. Speaking & leadership training. Info 454-1915.

UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS *Rm 601, Norquest College, 10215-18 St.* — Every Wed, 7 pm. Improve your public speaking skills. Info: 477-2613 www.ecn.ab.ca.

WEST END TOASTMASTER CLUB "COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP" *10451-170 St., Rear Entrance, Main Floor Boardroom* — Every Tue, 7 - 9 pm. Communication involves listening skills, giving appropriate feedback and public speaking. Join the friendly environment of personal progress and mutual support during two-hour weekly meetings. Info: 495-5424.

YOUNG ADULTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP *Knox Metropolitan United Church, 8307-109 St.* — Every third Thu of the month the Edmonton Chapter of the MS Society is offering a support group for people in their 20s and 30s who have MS and their family & friends. Info. 471-3034.

ACTIVISM

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL *Knox Metropolitan Church, 83 Ave. entrance, 8307-109 St.* — All are welcome. Info: 462-1871

ANARCHIST READING CIRCLE DISCUSSION GROUP *Fine Arts Building, lounge at bottom of stairway, U of A Campus, 114 St. & 89 Ave.* — Every Sun, 4 pm. Meet for critical discussion of assigned anarchist readings, the theory and practice of anarchism and current international and local events. Current readings available at www.oxygensmith.com/~arc

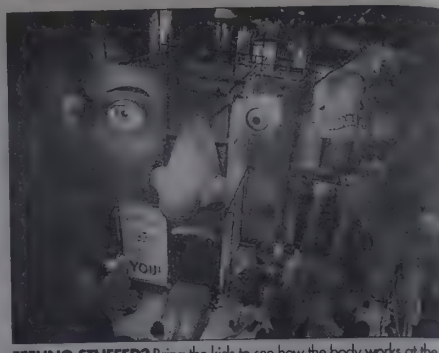
BIKE WORKS — Fix your own bike! Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' BikeWorks is entirely run by volunteers, fall hours are Wed 5 pm – 9 pm, and Sat 12 noon – 5 pm. Call ahead 433-2453. Full organization info at: www.edmontonbikes.ca

COUNCIL OF CANADIANS — Every third Wed of the month. An independent, public interest organization that works to promote economic justice, renew democracy and assert Canadian sovereignty. Info: 429-4500

EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION — Every third Wed, 7 pm. ESPA is an activist arts organization with members from 32 countries. Always seeking socially conscious artists, and production volunteers. Info: 434-9236 or contact@edmontonsmallpress.org.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD — Second Thu of the month, 7 pm, *Rm. 2-42, Humanities Building, U of A Campus.* Meetings are open to the public. Info: edmonton.iww.ca.

MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION *Faculté Saint-Jean, 8406-91 St. Room 3-18* — Every third & fourth Sat of the month, 9 am - 5 pm. An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women through programs on economy, community radio and community health. Offers training on HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and harm reduction in French, English and other African languages. Admission free for members, membership: $10. Call 490-7332 to register



FEELING STUFFED? Bring the kids to see how the body works at the Telus World of Science. See Exhibits.

PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE — Every Mon, 5 pm - 7 pm, *Education North 4-104, U of A Campus.* A youth group that promotes anti-racist & diversity workshops. Info: 425-4644 or www.naarr.org

SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA — Prairie Chapter works with, and is always seeking, ecologically and socially conscious individuals to build a strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info: www.sierraclub.ca/prairie

UNESCO COALITION FOR PEACE — Meets on the last Fri of every month, 3 pm. *Bayle McCauley Health Centre, 2nd Fl. Boardroom, 10628-96 St.* Info: 922-5566

UNIVERSITY COALITION AGAINST WAR & RACISM *Humanities Centre, Rm 1-7, U of A Campus* — Every Thu, 4:30 - 6 pm. A public interest group working in education & organizing invites concerned public to attend coalition meetings

WOMEN IN BLACK *Strathcona Farmer's Market, 83 Ave. & 103 St.* — First & third Sat of every month, 10 - 11 am. An international women's peace and anti-racism group formed by Jewish & Arab women in 1988 opposes violence in all its forms. All women, men and children invited to attend a silent vigil. Info: 435-7051

HEALTH & WELLNESS

CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE — *11205-101 St., 479-1999* Offers a range of services for members of the Native community, including a free community lunch every Friday at noon, employment & Public Health information, counseling referrals & one-on-one support, AADAC & Legal Aid referrals, and low cost or free beds, housing & clothing referrals. Mon Basketball 5 pm, Healing Circle 6 pm, Boxing 7 pm Tue Boxing 5 pm, Volleyball 6 pm, sewing Circle 6 pm Wed Beadwork Class 6 pm, CNFC Pow-wow 6 pm Thu Hip Hop class 5 pm, Cree class 6 pm, boxing 7 pm Fri Elders & Residency Day, Safe Using & Harm Reduction (last Fri of every month) 11 am, Tobacco Reduction 1 pm, Drop-in Night 6 pm.

CLUB LULU *Lululemon, 10544 - 82 Ave.* — Fun & innovative weekly activities to get you moving. Visit www.lululemon.com, call 435-9363 or email: whyte-community@lululemon.com to register

CSS WORKSHOPS *Catholic Social Services offices* — Info: 420-6081.

FAMILY CONSTELLATION — Every 2nd & 4th Wed, 7 pm. *10431-37 Ave.* Feel burdened by life, family, feelings, or work? When will you live your own life? Find the best place for YOU. Info: 967-9162 or www.constellationcurrents.ca.

GENTLE YOGA *Radha Yoga Centre 9946-87 Ave.* — Weekly classes in small group settings and Sunday Satsang (by donation). Enquire about schedule and fees. Info: 432-3363 or www.radha.org

HIV NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY *300-11456 Jasper Ave. 488-5742* — Hours: Mon, Wed & Thu, 9 am - 5 pm, Tue, 9 am - 7 pm & Fri, 9 am - 4 pm

LIVING POSITIVE *Suite 404,10408-124 St.* — Every Tue. 7 pm - 9 pm, A confidential space where POZ people can discuss & share common issues of concern. A peer-driven, AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living w/ HIV in Alberta. Info: 488-5768.

MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION *Faculté Saint-Jean, 8406-91 St., Room 3-18.* — Every third & fourth Sat of the month, 9 am - 5 pm: An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women through programs on economy, community radio and community health. Offers training on HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and harm reduction in French, English and other African languages. Admission free for members, membership: $10. Call 490-7332 to register.

MASSAGE THERAPY — Every Thu, until Feb. CDI College Massage Therapy students holding open public clinics. Relaxation massage $20.hour. Info; call CDI 463-7900.

OPEN YOUR MIND! *11403-101 St.* — God-Samten Ling Tibetan Buddhist Medi[illegible] Society. Meditation and Buddhist teac[illegible] our resident teacher, Tibetan Buddhist mo[illegible] Kushok Lobsang Dhamchoe. Beginners Tue, 7pm. Intermediate Wed, 7pm. Advanced pr[illegible]tices Sun, 11-1. Info: 479-0014 www.[illegible]samtenling.org.

RAJA YOGA MEDITATION — *#208, 10[illegible] St.* In association with the Brahma Ku[illegible] World Spiritual Organization. For info on f[illegible]ductory classes or events go to www.bkwsu.[illegible] or call 425-1050.

SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY *Strathcona Place Seniors Centre, 10831 University Ave.* [illegible] 4th Tue of every month, Dr. Joyce K[illegible] offers personal counseling, call 43[illegible] to arrange consultations or appointm[illegible] Every 2nd Wed Dr. Krysowaty facilitates [illegible] Organization for Caregivers Suppo[illegible] am-11:30 am.

TRANQUILITY MEDITATION *10502-70 Ave.* — Every Wed, 7 pm. Meditation w/ T[illegible]tional female lama Ani Kunsang. Info: [illegible] 6157.

YOUNG ADULTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP *Knox Metropolitan United [illegible] 8307-109 St.* — Every third Thu of [illegible] the Edmonton Chapter of the MS S[illegible] ing a support group for people in th[illegible] 30s who have MS and their family & [illegible] Info: 471-3034.

READINGS & LECTURES

NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR [illegible] *Jasper Ave., 425-9730* — Every Thu open stage poetry readings.

PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD READING CIRCLE — Every Sat, 10 am, *Stony Plain S[illegible] 112-4613-52 Ave., Stony Plain* Info: [illegible] Sa[illegible]

PHILOSOPHY CAFE — *Edmonton Room (ba[illegible] Stanley A. Milner Library, Sir Winston C[illegible] Square.* An ongoing series of Ph[illegible] presented by University of Alberta [illegible] Info: Ben at 496-1822

POET'S INK WRITING EVENINGS — [illegible] *Pub, 570 St. Albert Rd.* Writing [illegible] Sun except long weekends.

REVEREND D. KAYE *Turning Point 1284[illegible]* — Every Sun, 11 am. Seminar

SUBALTERN VOICES LECTURE SERIES — The University of Alberta Political Science Department presents the 2006-07 [illegible] series, *Subaltern Voices: Speaking & Theo[illegible] from the Disciplinary Margins. Room 10-[illegible] building, U of A Campus.*

T.A.L.E.S. STORYTELLING CIRCLE — Second [illegible] every month Sep-Jun *City Arts Centre 10[illegible] 84 Ave.* Come to share stories or just to lis[illegible] Reconvenes Jan 12, 8 pm. First visit free, $[illegible] cover rent thereafter. "Story Café" Jan 4, [illegible] *Bar & Grill, 10475-80 Ave., w/* Marie A[illegible] McLean, David Haas & Dawn Blue. Info: [illegible] 433-2932

LEARNING

AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES — Movements. [illegible] Afro-Caribbean Dance Ensemble holds cl[illegible] conveniently located on Jasper Ave. Info: [illegible] 5211 or www.movementsdance.com

CUBAN SALSA LESSONS — Every Tue, 8 p[illegible] *Funky Buddha, 10341-82 Ave.*

DROP-IN ART CLASSES — *Profiles Public Art [illegible] Gallery, 19 Perron St., St. Albert* Every [illegible] Thu, $10 per class, includes mater[illegible] upcoming classes call Glenda at 460-43[illegible] email ahtglenda@telus.net

FAVA WORKSHOPS — FAVA offers a range [illegible] filmmaking workshops this fall, including d[illegible]mentary storytelling, documentary post pro[illegible]tion & 16mm filmmaking basics. Details a[illegible] www.fava.ca.

GERMAN FOR BEGINNERS — *Edmonton Sen[illegible]*

JONESIN' CROSSWORD by Matt Jones

Ribbed for pleasure

Solving pleasure, I meant

ACROSS

1 Low-___ diet
5 Ironic short story writer
9 Brazilian rhythm in 2/2 time, for short
14 Away from the wind
15 Uncap
16 "___ beginning"
17 It's got ribs
19 More urgent
20 They may come with attachments
21 B'___ B'rith
23 E. ___
24 Flip out
25 It's got ribs
27 Fast flyer, for short
28 Speed (by)
30 Affirmative vote
31 Abbr. near a smiley
32 Walked nervously
34 "Planet of the Apes" role Dr. ___
36 It's got ribs
40 Total bull
41 Ham radio enthusiasts
42 Not Willie Nelson's favorite org.
43 Recipe amt.
46 "Incidentally," in Internet lingo
47 Magazine with "The Lighter Side of..."
50 It's got ribs
53 Party crasher?
55 Golden Rule word
56 It's heard by herders
57 Like some decals and patches
58 Frankie who sang "Love Is a Golden Ring"
60 They've got ribs
62 "From the top!"
63 Note between VPs, say
64 Another word for margarine
65 Smarts
66 Stuck in ___
67 "Freak on a Leash" band

DOWN

1 Shelfmates of Marlboros
2 Los ___
3 Meal
4 Give a false impression of
5 When pagans light bonfires
6 Chum of Tarzan
7 Alex's "Bill & Ted" costar
8 Evil reputation
9 Try on eBay
10 Reserved
11 Enter as if nothing happened
12 Pay painfully
13 Some antennas
18 Helen Mirren's role in "The Queen"
22 The Cure's "Why Can't ___ You?"
26 Perimeter deterrent
29 Chest muscle
32 Letters near the 7, on some phones
33 Nobel Peace Prize refuser Le ___ Tho
35 "___ for apple..." (cereal jingle line)
36 Part of the nobility
37 Dog also known as a German shepherd
38 Flow counterpart
39 Cockpit occupant
40 Leg bones
44 Stand-in
45 Flat panel display type
47 ___ Blahniks (chic shoes)
48 One who makes amends
49 Ted of "Help Me Help You"
51 Braxton and Collette
52 Magic or Wilt, once
54 Uncool
59 One way to go: abbr.
61 Ostrich relative

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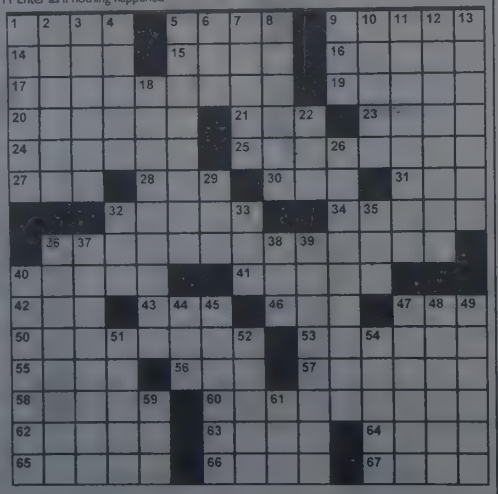
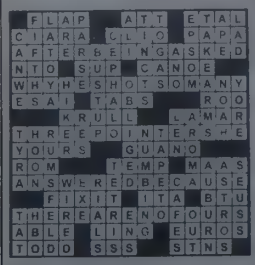
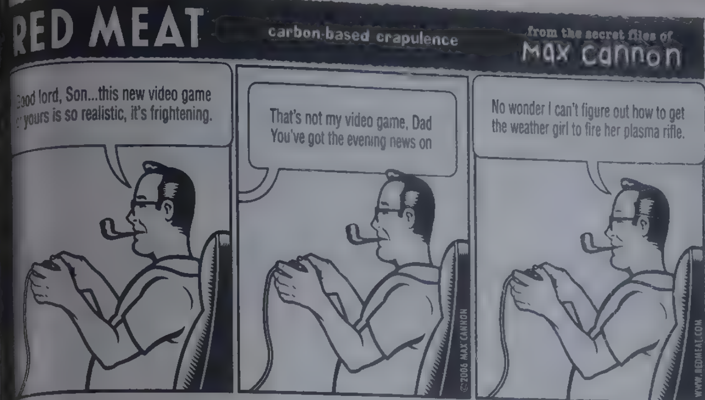
(editor@jonesincrosswords.com)



SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE





tre, 11111 Jasper Ave. Classes Wed mornings at 9 am in January. Info: 482-8625.

DANCE LESSONS — On The Rocks, 11740 Jasper Ave. "Salsa In the City" every Thu, Latin dance lesson at 9 pm. Info: www.sal-...mecity.com.

...RNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION — #200, 10116-105 Ave. The Learning Centre is looking for people to help adults develop their literacy & math skills. Volunteer & help others make positive changes for themselves and their communities. Info: Mary at 429-0675.

...S HILL CENTRE — 88318-104 St., 435-0202. Offers classes and workshops on the recovery process, incorporating emotional, relational & spiritual dynamics. Registration is on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Full details at www.marshillcentre.com.

...IA MAG WORKSHOPS — Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, 9702-111 Ave. $150 per workshop Info: www.mediamag.ca.

...DAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP — Build self-esteem and learn about women's resources in the community. For more information contact ...ane Helene at the City of Edmonton, 496-...

...GA CLASSES — Mon & Thu 5:45 pm, Wed 10 ... 7 week sessions $70 or drop-in $12/class. Classes held in Sherwood Park. Info: 416-4244, or www.balanced-wellness.ca.

KIDS

...NTURE SUNDAYS John Janzen Nature Centre, Fox Dr. & Whitemud Dr. — Every Sun, ... am – 4 pm. Join a naturalist and explore a ... theme. Each weekend features hands-on activities and projects for the whole family. Admission $1.75 adults, $1.50 youth/seniors, $1.25 children. Info: 496-8787 or www.edmonton.ca/johnjanzen.

...Y CADET RECRUITMENT Progressive Academy, ...2 2 106 Ave. — Every Wed, 6:30 - 9 pm. Free sports, activities, camping, rifling, wall climbing and orienteering. For more information ...son 473-4500.

ART-VENTURES *Profiles Public Art Gallery, 19 Perron St., St Albert, 460-4310* — Every third Sat, 1 - 4 pm Drop in to the gallery and discover how much fun art can be Children ages ... 12. Suggested donation per child is $2 Parents must stay with their children

CAPOEIRA KIDS CLASSES *10540 Jasper Ave 709-3500* — **Every Tue & Thu**, 4:30 – 5.30 pm **Sat**, 1 – 2 pm. Capoeira is a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts & percussion Info www.capoeiraedmonton ca

FREE INDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM — Every Sat, Nov-Jun *Sacred Heart School Gymnasium 96 St. & 108 Ave* Introduction to basic soccer skills by renowned FIFA coach Tony Wallace Info 420_0760

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES — Dec 23, 1 pm – 4 pm. *The Marketplace at Callingwood, 69 Ave. & 178 St.* All riders will receive a free activity book and hot chocolate

KIDS KARATE *Grandin School, 9884-110 St* — **Every Tue & Fri**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm Classes for kids aged 10 & up. Info: 975-6910 or 460-2931

YOUTH DROP-IN CENTRE *Castle Downs YMCA, 11510-153 Ave., 476-9622* — **Every Fri**, 7 - 10 pm. Basketball, air hockey, foosball, swimming & open gym. Call Trent, 476-9622 for Info.

QUEER

AGAPE *Education faculty, U of A Campus* — Focus group on sex and gender differences in education & culture. Pre-service & practicing teachers, community members welcome. Email andre grace@ualberta.ca for Agape events schedule Info: 492-0772

INSIDE/OUT *U of A Campus* — A campus-based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academic & staff. Straight allies are also welcome Monthly meetings. Contact kwells@ualberta.ca or mwonham@ualberta ca

PRIDE CENTRE *9540-111 Ave., 488-3234* — GLBT & Supporters Community & Resource Centre Join a group or take part in special programming. Hours. Mon-Thu 1 pm - 10 pm Fri 3 pm – 10 pm Info: www.pridecentreofedmonton.org

THURSDAY

BI-SEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP — Second **Thu** each month 7:30 pm A social group for bi-curious and bi-sexual women More info groups yahoo.com/group/bwedmonton

COCAINE ANONYMOUS MEETING — Every Thu, 7 pm *Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave)* CA Hotline 425-2715

FREE TO BE VOLLEYBALL *Amiskiwcy Academy, 101 Airport Rd.* — **Every Thu**, 8 pm- 10 pm GLBT players, intermediate level. Coaching & drills provided Info Alex at 424-9984 ... flipside@telus.net. Recreational night every Wed, all levels welcome

GAYWIRE *CJSR 88.5* — 6 pm: Edmonton's only radio show about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives. Featuring news, local and international features and community events

HIV POSITIVE GLBT SUPPORT GROUP — Every second **Thu**, 7 pm - 9 pm, *Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.)* Drop-in support group facilitated by Mark from HIV Edmonton

LGBT SENIORS DROP IN — Every **Thu**, 2 pm – 4 pm, *Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.)* Info Jeff, 488 3234

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB *The Roost, 10345-104 St* — Second **Thu** of each month. Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends & supporters meet. Info 387-3343 or go to groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions/

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB — Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate Practices every **Tue & Thu.** Socializing after practice. Info: www.geocities.com/making-waves_edm

FRIDAY

CURLING WITH PRIDE *Shamrock Curling Club, 9330-90 Ave.* — **Every Fri**, 9 pm. Info: curlingwithpride.com.

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave* — **Last Fri**, every month, 7 pm. TTIQ Alliance, dinner & social evening for trans-identified & questioning people, family & friends Info: 718-1412 or ttiqalliance@shaw.ca

SATURDAY

NORTHERN CHAPS *Boots 10242-106 St.* — Edmonton's original leather-fetish-uniform club meets the **first and third Sat** of every month, 9 pm. Info: main@northernchaps.com or www.northernchaps.com

NORTHERN TRANS GLBT BOWLING LEAGUE *Gateway Lanes & Recreation Centre, #100 3414 Gateway Blvd N* — 5 - 7 pm. group supper each week after bowling (optional) Cost is $15 per person Info: Peter 483-1075.

SUIT UP & SHOW UP *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave* — Big Book study 12 noon – 3pm

YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH *Pride Centre 9540-111 Ave.* — Every **Sat**, 7 - 9 pm Providing a warm and friendly place where lesbian, gay bisexual, transgendered, straight and questioning youth under the age of 25 can gather to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe, supportive and caring environment Info: members shaw ca/yuy

SUNDAY

ARCTIC FRONTRUNNERS — 10 am A group of gay and lesbian runners meets Sun mornings and hits the river valley trails Runners of all speeds are welcome Our runs are typically 7 - 10 km long and take 40 - 60 minutes Info 436-7892

BEARS MOVIE NIGHT *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave* — Last **Sun** of every month, 1 pm - 6 pm Movies in the T.V. room. Info 488-3234

[illegible] TRANSSEXUAL PEER SUPPORT GROUP — Every 2nd & 4th **Sun**, 2 pm, *Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.)* Info 488-3234.

LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH *Garneau United Church, 11148 84 Ave.* — Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual Christians and their friends All denominations, faiths welcome Worship at 7 pm, Sun. Info 887-8611 or lambdachurch@shaw.ca

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP *Pride Centre 9540-111 Ave.* — Every **Sun**, 7 pm. Men's social & discussion group Call: 488-3234

SOUTHMINSTER STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH *10740 19 Ave.* — 10 am: Welcomes people of all sexual orientations. Info: 987-4974

SPIRITUAL LIVING CENTRE — Celebrating and embracing the spiritual magnificence in all. www.spirituallivingcentre.com, 989-3752.

TUESDAY

[illegible] METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON *10086 MacDonald Dr.* — 7:15 pm: A church for all people. Info: 429-2321.

GROUP MOVIE NIGHT — Phone to find out what movie, when to meet and where. Join us for coffee afterwards, too. Cost: Free for 2 members plus theatre costs. Info: 454-0313

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB — Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every **Tue & Thu** Socialization after practices. Info. www.geocities com/making-waves_adm

OUTREACH *Heritage Room, Athabasca Hall, U of A Campus* — 5 pm. U of A based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight but friendly students, staff and faculty Open to the community, not just U of A. Info: www.outreach.pixelalmighty com or outreach@ualberta ca

PFLAG *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave.* — Support meeting first Tues every month at 7 pm for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people Info. Ruby at 436-1998 or edmonton@pflagcanada ca

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP *Garneau United Church meeting room, 11148 84 Ave* — Second Tue of every month, 7:30 - 9.30 pm TTIQ ... tion & support group for trans-ident... ...tioning people. Info: 718-1412 or ttiqalliance@shaw ca

WEDNESDAY

EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION — Meets the second **Wed** of every month ... casual networking with ... munity Locations liste... www edmontonrba or...

FREE TO BE VOLLEYBALL *Amiskiwcy Aca... Airport Rd* — Every **Wed**, 8 pm - 10 pm ... players of all levels welcome Info Marc at 44... 0356 or padremarc@hotmail com

OPEN DOOR CLUB — Every Wed, 5 pm ... *MacEwan College - City Centre Cam... 217)* A social group for LGBTQ Students, ... & friends at Grant MacEwan College

YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) — A support group for LGBT parents, partners and their friends Meets first and third Wed of the month Info 426-6311 or 415-5434

BATH HOUSES

DOWN UNDER *12224 Jasper Ave., 482-7960 www.gayedmonton.com*

STEAMERS *9668 Jasper Ave., 422-2581*

STEAMWORKS *11745-Jasper Ave.* — Open 24/7 Info: 451 5554.

DANCE

DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE — 2nd & 4th **Mon** of each month, 7:30 pm. *Riverdale Hall, 9231 100 Ave.* Info Call: 467-1285

RODA DE CAPOEIRA — Every Sat, 1 pm, *Capoeira Academy, 10540 Jasper Ave., 709-3500* A free performance of Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts & music, invented by African slaves. Info: www capoeiraedmonton.ca.

THEATRE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL — Until Dec 23. *Maclab Theatre, Citadel Complex* Adapted by Tom Wood The Citadel's Christmas tradition continues with this astounding retelling of Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol. Director: Bob Baker. Starring: Tom Wood. Tickets $65-$90, available at the Citadel Box Office.

CHIMPROV *Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave.*

448-0695 — Every **Sat** at 11 pm (except last Sat of the month) Chimprov comedy improv.

DIE-NASTY *Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave.* — This season, the Canadian Comedy Award Winning Improv troupe Die-Nasty presents The Die-Hards: the greatest NHL hockey team that never was! Every **Mon**, 8 pm. Tickets $10 at the door. Info: www.die-nasty.com or 433-3399

JEFF & CELINA'S YULETIDE CABARET FANTASY...ON ICE! — Until Dec 23, *7 pm* *Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 433-3399* Jeff Haslam, Celina Stachowy, and pianist Steven Greenfield will regale audiences not only with a selection of seasonal songs, but also with holiday reminiscences and observations, a cunning craft demonstration, a riotous cooking segment and, what the heck, they'll even dance a bit! And, as with every good Christmas party, there'll be guests! Illustrious surprise celebrities will drop by every night to warble and wassail, making each night a one-of-a-kind revel. Tickets $15, $12 students

RAPID FIRE THEATRE *10329-83 Ave. 448-0695* — Every Fri at 11 pm Rapid Fire's insane improv show, $10

THE SOUND OF MUSIC — Dec 20-23, Dec 27-30 & Jan 4-6 *at 7:30 pm.* **Dec 26 & Jan 1 at 2 pm.** *Festival Place, Sherwood Park.* Festival Place's annual Christmas production. Tickets available at the Festival Place box office, 449-3387.

WINFIELD'S INFERNO — Jan 6-28. *Citadel Theatre, 9828 101A Ave.* By Dan Needles. Walt Wingfield, stockbroker turned farmer, is back. This time the Orange hall is burned down and the hapless agriculturalist must lead the charge to get it rebuilt. Director: Douglas Beattie. Starring: Ron Beattie. Shactor Theatre. Tickets $45-60, available at the Citadel Box office.

ALT CINEMA

METRO CINEMA *Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre Complex, 9828-101A Ave.* — Closed for the Holidays. Re-opens Jan 5 with *Lunacy* and *American Hardcore.*

LIVE COMEDY

KOKANEE COMEDY BATTLE *Sidetrack Café, 10238-104 St.* — **Every Thu**, 9:30 pm. Local & touring comics battle for prizes. Come down & vote for your favourite comic. Hosted by Kathleen McGee. Info: www.myspace.com/kokaneecomedybattle.

THE COMEDY FACTORY *408-3414 Gateway Blvd., 469-4999* — **Dec 21-23** Leif Skyving, **Dec 28-30** Bob Beddow. **Thu & Fri** 8:30, **Sat** 8:30 & 10pm. **Wed** Whacky Wednesday.

THE COMIC STRIP *WEM 483-5999* — **Dec 21-2** *Punk'd's* Rob Pue w/ Andrew Iwaniuk, Sh Gramiak & Kelly Soloduka, **Dec 26-30** Rob w/ Lars Calleiou & Sean Thompson. **Mon** Miss Mondays: amateurs compete for ov approval. **Tue** Alternative Comedy night h tists, magicians & street performers. Info www.thecomicstrip.ca.

YUK YUKS *66 St. & 137 Ave. Londonde 481-9857* — **Dec 21-23** Howie Mill Salamandick & Kevin McGrath. **Dec 31-N** Peter Kalamis. **Wed** Pro Am Comedy Jam yukyuks.com.

SILVERCITY
FAMOUS PLAYERS IMAX THEATRE
West Edmonton Mal
©IMAX CORPORATIO

SHOWTIMES DECEMBER 22-28, 2006

GARNEAU

8712 - 109 STREET • 433-0778 CLOSED DEC 24 & 25

VOLVER 14A
Nightly 6:50, 9:20, Sat & Tues matinees 2:00 Mature themes

PRINCESS

10337 - 82 AVENUE • 433-0778 CLOSED DEC 24 & 25.

LITTLE CHILDREN 18A
Nightly 6:50, 9:20, Sat & Tues matinee 2:00 Sexual content

SHOW CARE 14A
Nightly 7:00, 9:10; Sat & Tues matinee 2:30

MARIE LANTERN CINEMA

205 Main Street, Spruce Grove • 962-7332

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Nightly 7:00, 9:00; Matinees Dec. 23, 26 & 28, 1:00, 3:00

METRO CINEMA

9828-101A AVENUE (ZEIDLER HALL, CITADEL THEATRE) • 425-9212
CLOSED UNTIL JAN. 5

GRANDIN THEATRES

GRANDIN MALL, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE., ST. ALBERT • 458-9822

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Daily 12:55, 3:05, 5:20, 7:25, 9:25
Not recommended for young children. No passes.

THE HOLIDAY PG
Daily 6:45, 9:15 Not recommended for young children

THE NATIVITY STORY PG
Daily 4:[illegible]

APOCALYPTO 14A
Daily [illegible] 2:50

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Daily 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00.

ERAGON PG
Daily 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:20 Not recommended for young children.

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Daily 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 No passes

ST. ALBERT CINEMAS

490, 140 St Albert Road, St Albert • 418-6999
WE ARE NOW CLOSED ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

[illegible]

LEDUC CINEMAS

4702-50 St. Leduc • 986-2728

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Nightly 7:10, 9:20, matinee daily 1:00, 3:25

ERAGON PG
Nightly 6:55, 9:25, matinee daily 1:10, 3:35 Violence, not recommended for young children

THE HOLIDAY PG
Nightly 7:00, 9:35 Not recommended for young children

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Nightly 7:05, 9:30; matinee daily 1:00, 3:30

HAPPY FEET G
Matinee daily 1:05, 3:20

NEW WEST MALL 8

WEST EDMONTON MALL, PHASE III ENTRANCE 2 • 444-1829
BOX OFFICE OPENS NIGHTLY 6:15 • OPEN MATINEES SAT/SUN 1:30

TURISTAS 18A
Fri, Tues-Thurs 4:10, 6:50, 9:10; Sat 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:10; Sun 1:20, 4:10, 6:50; Mon 6:50, 9:10 Brutal violence, gory scenes

[illegible] PG
Fri, Tues-Thurs 4:15, 7:10, 10:00; Sat 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00; Sun 1:30, 4:15, 7:10; Mon 7:10, 10:00

THE PRESTIGE 14A
Fri, Tues-Thurs 3:50, 6:45, 9:45; Sat 1:10, 3:50, 6:45, 9:45; Sun 1:10, 3:50, 6:45; Mon 6:45, 9:45

TRAILER PARK BOYS: THE MOVIE 18A
Fri, Tues-Thurs 4:00, 6:30, 9:15; Sat 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15; Sun 1:15, 4:00, 6:30; Mon 6:30, 9:15 Coarse language, substance abuse

ERAGON PG
Fri, Tues-Thurs 4:20, 7:20; Sat-Sun 1:40, 4:20, 7:20; Mon 7:20

RUNNING WITH SCISSORS 14A
Fri 4:00, 6:45, 9:55; Sat-Sun 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:55; Mon-Thurs 6:45, 9:55 Mature theme, coarse language

LET'S GO TO PRISON 14A
Fri, Tues-Thurs 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; Sat 1:50, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; Sun 1:50, 4:45, 7:15; Mon 7:15, 9:30 Coarse language

[illegible] G
Fri, Tues-Thurs 4:30, 7:00, 9:20; Sat 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20; Sun 1:45, 4:30, 7:00; Mon 7:00, 9:20

THE ILLUSIONIST PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 9:50 Mature themes

THE GUARDIAN PG
Fri, Tues-Thurs 3:45, 6:40, 9:40; Sat 1:00, 3:45, 6:40, 9:40; Sun 1:00, 3:45, 6:40; Mon 6:40, 9:40
Coarse language, not recommended for young children

SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON

CALGARY TRAIL & 23RD AVENUE • 436-8585

WE ARE MARSHALL PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15; Sun 1:15, 4:15, 7:20; No passes

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:30, 4:30, 8:30; Sun 2:30, 6:30; Mon 4:30, 8:30 No passes.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15; Sun 1:30, 4:20, 7:30 Not recommended for young children

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 2:00, 5:00, 7:50, 10:20; Sun 2:00, 5:00, 7:50.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00; Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:00

ERAGON PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:00, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30; Sun 12:00, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00 Mon 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
Violence, not recommended for children. No passes

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Sat 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:15, 4:50, 5:40, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:45; Sun 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:15, 4:50, 5:40, 7:15; Mon 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30; Tues-Thurs 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30

[illegible] PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:15, 3:20, 6:40, 9:40; Sun 12:15, 3:20, 6:40, 9:40 Not recommended for children

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Sat Tues-Thurs 12:45, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30; Sun 12:45, 3:50, 7:10; Mon 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 Gory scenes, brutal violence

THE NATIVITY STORY PG
Fri-Sat Tues-Thurs 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:00; Sun 12:50, 3:40, 6:30; Mon 3:40, 6:30, 9:00

DEJA VU 14A
Fri-Sat 6:45, 9:50; Sun 6:45

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Sat Tues-Thurs 12:20, 3:30, 6:50, 10:10; Sun 12:20, 3:30, 6:50; Mon 3:30, 6:50, 10:10 Violence

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 1:20, 4:00, 6:45, 9:20; Sun 1:20, 4:00, 6:45

BORAT 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45; Sun 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00; Mon 3:10, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45 Coarse language, sexual content, crude content, not recommended for young children.

THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE G
Fri-Sun 12:10, 2:20, 4:30; Mon 2:20, 4:30; Tues-Thurs 12:10, 2:20

DREAMGIRLS PG
Mon 3:45, 6:45, 9:50; Tues-Thurs 12:40, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50 Coarse language, sexual content, [illegible]

BLACK CHRISTMAS 18A
Mon-Thurs 1:00, 3:15, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45 Gory scenes, disturbing content

NORTH EDMONTON CINEMAS

14231-137th Avenue • 732-7273

[illegible] PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:30, 4:00, 7:15, 10:10; Sun 12:30, 4:00, 7:15, Mon 4:00, 7:15, 10:10

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:00, 3:50, 7:00, 9:30; Sun 1:00, 3:50, 7:00, Mon 3:50, 7:00, 9:30 Not recommended for young children

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:40; Sun 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, Mon 3:15, 6:30, 9:40 Violence

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:10, 4:10, 7:25, 10:15; Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:25, Mon 4:10, 7:25, 10:15

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:10, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15; Sun 1:20, 4:20, 6:45, Mon 4:20, 6:45, 9:15

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00; Sun 12:30, 3:40, 6:40, Mon 3:40, 6:50, 10:00 Not recommended for children

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:10, 3:25, 6:35, 9:50; Sun 12:10, 3:25, 6:35, Mon 3:25, 6:35, 9:50 Violence, disturbing content

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:40, 4:30, 8:30; Sun 12:40, 6:25, Mon 4:30, 8:30

[illegible] 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:55; Sun 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, Mon 3:30, 6:40, 9:55 Violence

CITY CENTRE 9 CINEMAS

300 FLOOR PHASE II, 101 ST & 102 AVE • 421-7020

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45 Violence, disturbing content

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Thurs 12:15, 3:10, 7:10, 10:00

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:40

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Thurs 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

DEJA VU 14A
Fri-Sun, Tues-Thurs 12:40, 3:45, 6:50, 10:05; Mon 12:40, 3:45 10:05.

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Thurs 12:50, 3:50

STRANGER THAN FICTION PG
Fri-Thurs 6:25, 9:15

THE NATIVITY STORY PG
Fri-Thurs 1:20, 4:20

BORAT 14A
Fri-Thurs 7:25, 10:10 Coarse language, sexual content, crude content, not recommended for children

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Thurs 12:35, 3:40, 6:40, 9:55 Not recommended for children

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 9:50 Gory scenes, brutal violence.

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Wed-Thurs 1:10, 4:25, 7:20, 10:05

CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS

4211-139TH AVENUE • 477-7600

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri 7:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20; Sat, Tues-Thurs 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20; Sun 2:00, 4:40, 7:00; Mon 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Not recommended for young children

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Fri 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Sun 1:50, 4:30, 6:55; Mon 4:30, 7:30, 10:00

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri 1:15, 3:50, 6:50, 9:25; Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:15, 3:50, 6:50, 9:25; Sun 1:15, 3:50, 6:50; Mon 3:50, 6:50, 9:25

ERAGON PG
Fri 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45; Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45; Sun 1:40, 4:20, 6:40; Mon 4:20, 7:20, 9:45. Violence, not recommended for young children.

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri 9:35; Sat Mon-Thurs 9:35 Gory scenes, brutal violence

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri 12:45, 3:40, 6:35; Sat-Sun, Tues-Thurs 12:45, 3:40, 6:35, Mon 3:40, 6:35 Violence

WE ARE MARSHALL PG
Fri 4:10, 7:15, 9:50; Sat, Mon-Thurs 4:10, 7:15, 9:50; Sun 4:10, 6:50.

HAPPY FEET G
Fri 1:30; Sat-Sun, Tues-Thurs 1:30.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri 1:00, 4:30, 8:00; Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:00, 4:30, 8:00; Sun 1:00, 6:30; Mon 4:30, 8:00

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri 12:40, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30; Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:40, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30; Sun 12:40, 3:30, 6:40; Mon 3:30, 6:40, 9:30.
Violence, disturbing content.

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri 1:10, 4:00, 6:45, 9:40; Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:10, 4:00, 6:45, 9:40; Sun 1:10, 4:00, 6:45; Mon 4:00, 6:45, 9:40 Not recommended for children.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:15; Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:15; Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05; Mon 4:50, 7:05, 9:15.

GATEWAY 8

29TH AVENUE & CALGARY TRAIL • 434-6977

THE FOUNTAIN 14A
Fri 6:35, 9:40; Sat 1:30, 4:00, 6:35, 9:40; Sun 1:30, 4:00; Mon-Thurs 9:15

KABUL EXPRESS 14A
Fri Mon 6:45, Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:00, 6:45; Sun 1:00.

BABEL PG
Fri Mon 9:00; Sat, Tues-Thurs 3:15, 9:00; Sun 3:15.

FLUSHED AWAY G
Fri, Mon 7:10; Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:15, 3:25, 7:10; Sun 1:15, 3:25.

TENACIOUS D IN: THE PICK OF DESTINY 14A
Fri-Sat 9:15 Crude sexual language, substance abuse.

DHAGAM DHAG STC
Fri, Mon 6:30, 8:45; Sat, Tues-Thurs 3:30, 6:30, 8:45; Sun 3:30.

THE HISTORY OF BOYS 14A
Fri Mon 7:15, 9:45; Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:40, 4:10, 7:15, 9:45; Sun 1:40, 4:10. Coarse language, mature themes.

WESH IGRAM STC
Fri, Mon 7:20, 9:35; Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:50, 4:15, 7:20, 9:35; Sun 1:50, 4:15.

STRANGER THAN FICTION PG
Fri, Mon 6:40, 9:20; Sat 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20; Sun 1:05, 3:50; Tues-Thurs 1:40, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20

THE QUEEN PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 6:50, 9:25

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS G
Sat-Sun 1:25, 3:40; Tues-Thurs 1:25, 3:50

DEJA VU 14A
Mon 6:15, 9:40; Tues-Thurs 1:05, 3:45, 6:15, 9:40

WESTMOUNT CENTRE

111 AVENUE & GROAT ROAD • 455-8726

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri, Mon 7:00, 9:20; Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:45, 3:10, 7:00, 9:20; Sun 12:45, 3:10.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri, Mon 7:45; Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:00, 3:30, 7:45; Sun 12:00, 3:30.

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri, Mon 6:30, 9:30; Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:15, 3:20, 6:30, 9:30; Sun 12:15, 3:20 No recommended for children.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri, Mon 6:45, 9:05; Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:30, 3:00, 6:45, 9:05; Sun 12:30, 3:00

SILVERCITY

[illegible] BOULEVARD

ERAGON PG
Fri-Thurs 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00 Violence, not recommended for young children. No passes

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:25, 3:30, 6:50, 10:15 Violence

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Thurs 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45 No passes

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Thurs 12:55, 3:45, 6:40, 9:55 No passes

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Sun 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Thurs 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

BORAT 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:35, 9:40 Coarse language, sexual content, crude content, not recommended for children

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 12:50, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20; Sun 12:50, 3:30, 6:55, 10:20 Gory scenes, brutal violence

BLOOD DIAMOND PG
Fri-Thurs 12:45, 3:55, 7:10, 10:20 Violence, disturbing content

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Mon, Thurs 12:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:50; Sun 12:30, 9:50.

DEJA VU 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:40, 3:20, 7:05, 10:10

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS G
Fri, Sun-Thurs 1:15, 3:25, 6:35, 9:25, Sat 1:15, 3:25, 9:25

WE ARE MARSHALL PG
Stadio Preview Sat 7:00

WWE: ARMAGEDDON STC
Sun 6:00

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Wed-Thurs 12:30, 3:35, 7:00, 10:00

MOVIES 12

130 AVENUE & 50 STREET • 472-9779

THE DEPARTED 18A
Daily 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 Coarse language, violence

TRAILER PARK BOYS: THE MOVIE 18A
Sun 11:25, daily 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:00; late nite Fri/Sat 12:10
Coarse language, substance abuse.

JET LI'S FEARLESS PG
Sun 11:15; daily 1:45, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25; late nite Fri/Sat 11:40
Violence, not recommended for young children.

MAN OF THE YEAR PG
Sun 11:05, daily 1:35, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35; late nite Fri/Sat 11:55. Coarse language

STIP UP PG
Sun 11:10; daily 1:40, 4:25, 6:55, 9:20; late nite Fri/Sat 11:45

BACKYARD G
Sun 11:30, daily 1:50.

FLICKA G
Sun 11:00, daily 1:05, 3:05.

LET'S GO TO A PRISON 14A
Sun 11:05; daily 1:30, 4:20, 7:25, 9:40; late nite Fri/Sat 11:50.
Coarse language

THE GUARDIAN PG
Daily 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30. Coarse language, not recommended for young children.

OPEN SEASON G
Sun 11:20; daily 1:10, 3:10, 5:05, 7:05, 9:10; late nite Fri/Sat 11:15.

THE GRUDGE 2 14A
Daily 4:40, 9:45, late nite Fri/Sat 11:55. Frightening scenes

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG
Daily 11:35, daily 2:00, 7:15. Coarse language

THE MARINE 14A
Daily 5:10, 7:40, 9:55, late nite Fri/Sat 12:00. Violence

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG
Daily 4:35, 7:20, 9:50, late nite Fri/Sat 12:05

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST PG
Daily 1:00, 4:15, 7:30; late nite Fri/Sat 10:40
Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children

CINEMA CITY 12

CINEMA CITY 3633-99 STREET • 463-5481 (FRI-SAT MIDNIGHT)

THE DEPARTED 18A
Daily 1:05, 4:00, 7:25, late nite Fri/Sat 10:40
Coarse language, violence.

TRAILER PARK BOYS: THE MOVIE 18A
Sun 11:30; daily 2:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35, late nite Fri/Sat 11:35. Coarse language, substance abuse

JET LI'S FEARLESS PG
Sun 11:15, daily 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40; late nite Fri/Sat 11:5
Violence, not recommended for young children

MAN OF THE YEAR PG
Daily 4:40, 9:30; late nite Fri/Sat 11:50. Coarse language

STIP UP PG
Sun 10:55, daily 1:40, 7:20.

BARNYARD G
Sun 11:10, daily 3:25

FLICKA G
Sun 11:00, daily 1:50, 4:25

LET'S GO TO PRISON 14A
Sun 11:35, daily 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 9:55, late nite Fri/Sat 11:5
Coarse language

THE GUARDIAN PG
Daily 4:25, 7:35, late nite Fri/Sat 10:55
Coarse language, not recommended for young children.

OPEN SEASON G
Sun 11:00; daily 1:10, 3:10, 5:00, 7:10, 9:25, late nite Fri/Sat 11:0

[illegible] 14A
Sun 11:25, daily 2:10, 4:35, 7:05, 9:45, late nite Fri/Sat 1
Coarse language, mature themes

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG
Daily 7:00, 10:00, late nite Fri/Sat 12:10 Coarse language

THE MARINE 14A
Daily 1:45, 9:50, late nite Fri/Sat 11:45. Violence

[illegible] PG
Sun 11:20, daily 4:05, 6:50. Mature themes.

[illegible] PG
Sun 11:05; daily 1:35, 4:00, 6:55, 9:20, late nite Fri/Sat 11:45

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST PG
Daily 1:20, 4:20, 7:30; late nite Fri/Sat 10:50. Frightening scene recommended for young children

GALAXY CINEMAS

2020 SHERWOOD DR., SHERWOOD PARK • 416-

[illegible] PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:10, 4:00, 6:55, 9:45, Sun 1:10, 4:00, 6:55, Mon 4:00, 6:55, 9:45 Not recommended for young children. No pass

[illegible] 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:30, 4:30, 8:30; Sun 2:30, 6:30, Mon 4:3
No passes.

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:45, 3:25, 6:20, 9:00; Sun 12:45, 3:25, 6:20, Mon 3:25, 6:20, 9:00

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:40, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10; Sun 12:40, 4:20, Mon 4:20, 7:15, 10:10.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50; Sun 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30; Mon 5:10, 7:30, 9:50.

ERAGON PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55; Sun 1:30, 4:10, 7:10 Mon 4:10, 7:10, 9:55
Violence, not recommended for young children. No passes.

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 10:05; Sun 12:50, 3:50, 7:00 Mon 3:50, 7:00, 10:05. Violence, disturbing content.

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:35, 3:45, 6:45, 10:15; Sun 12:35, 3:45, 6:45 Mon 3:45, 6:45, 10:15. Not recommended for children

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 9:15. Gory scenes, brutal violence.

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Sat, Tues-Thurs 12:15, 3:30, 6:40, 10:00; Sun 12:15, 3:30, 6:40 Mon 3:30, 6:40, 10:00 Violence

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Sun, Tues-Thurs 1:00, 3:55, 6:30, Mon 3:55, 6:30

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Musicians Available

[illegible]

Vocalist available for original group [illegible]

Singer/songwriter looking for new band Nothing heavy Samples @ www [illegible] Email edmrockband@hotmail com if interested

Vocalist/guitarist looking for band. I like punk/rap/hardcore No Blockheads Mike 482-6663

Guitarist available jam/form band Have jam space 60's to 2006 rock. 909-1993 or itsinatas@hotmail com

Aggressive guitarist & drummer seek like-minded musician Must have own gear & fully committed Cory 478-8455

Experienced drummer looking for a hard rock, rockabilly or old school metal band. Email jeffkicks@hotmail com

Guitarist looking to jam/form band Have rehearsal space, PA, drum set Pro gear 424-7527 itsinatas@hotmail com

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Musicians Wanted

Full band looking for [illegible] ultimate [illegible]ger Must desir[illegible] are ove[illegible]

[illegible] musicians [illegible] untry no [illegible] ear, can gig

[illegible] king to [illegible] thers to play [illegible] try Raggae

[illegible] ar to play Rag[illegible] all Dale 704-6617

[illegible]

GottaGrooveGradgeBand [illegible] in' the Blues rock'n[illegible] Need drums bas[illegible] for FUN and progress. 436-1127 [illegible]

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Manufactured Homes

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Help Wanted

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IGA FOOD STORE, Valleyview Alberta Grocery Store Manager and Assistant Store Manager 5 days a week, must be experienced and well organized, company benefits. Salary dependent on experience. Send resume to E R. Chychul, Box 808, Valleyview AB, T0H 3N0 Fax 780-524-3988 Email: igastore@telusplanet.net

Restaurant staff required. Live and work in a west coast paradise! Management positions also available. Details at: http://www.ravenstreet.ca/jobs.html

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is looking for full-time and part-time sales associates
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Divine on Whyte requires office/warehouse staff. Monday-Friday 9to5 Valid drivers license req No vehicle OK. Email resume to **orissa@divineplanet.com**

CJSR FM 88
Edmonton's campus/community radio station is hiring a Volunteer Director. This position will be the first point of contact for individuals seeking involvement with CJSR. The Director will be responsible for recruitment, intake, coordination and appreciation of volunteers as well as maintaining the volunteer database. Requirements excellent interpersonal and communication skills, experience in working with volunteers and volunteer management, familiarity with campus/community radio stations P/T 25 hr/wk. See www.cjsr.com for details and application information Deadline 12/31

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for the office of
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Experience preferred
but not necessary.
Call Harmeet at 993-8303
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Help Wanted

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BOOM TRUCK OPERATORS to operate 25 - 40 ton pickers. Experienced apprentices may be considered. Class 1 licence with clean driver's abstract. Benefits Fax resume to 780-956-3057 Phone 780-956-3050

CLASS #1 tank truck drivers with off road experience. Catered camp job. Two weeks on and one week off. Full-time Fax resume with references: 780-523-5833

Help Wanted

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE Personnel required for expanding Chrysler dealership 40 minutes north of Edmonton, Alberta. Looking for personnel to fill the following positions in our new facility: Journeymen technicians, apprentice technicians, lube technicians with the opportunity for apprenticeships. Contact Dale Marshall at Brown's Chrysler Ltd., 10447 - 104 Ave., Westlock, AB, T7P 2E4. Phone 1-888-349-5566. Fax 1-780-349-6499. Email: service@brownschrysler.com.

CABLE TOOL water well driller. Edmonton - Red Deer area. Fully experienced or will finish training person with some experience Free room. Big Iron Drilling, 1-800-244-4766

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CHEAPER THAN SCROOGE - Telephone Reconnect! Switch for free - call for details! Disconnected? Only $24.95 for first month + connection fee! Phone Factory Reconnect 1-877-336-2274; www.phonefactory.ca.

CLASS 1 DRIVERS to work in Fort Nelson, BC Must have experience, work away from home and work with little supervision Drivers without experience and those without clean abstracts need not apply Fax resume 403-223-8199

CLASS 1 DRIVERS to work in Taber, Alberta Experience driving necessary - Industry training provided. Must relocate. Serious inquiries only Apply by fax to 403-223-8199

Help Wanted

CHAMPION DRILLING [illegible] ently seeking experi[illegible] sonnel for our Brooks [illegible] of conventional [illegible] drives/ADR's, and single [illegible] drive and coil tubing ex[illegible] an asset, but not req[illegible] are recruiting experi[illegible] sonnel for all positions [illegible] offering competitive [illegible] excellent benefit package [illegible] incentive program and [illegible] advancement opp[illegible] qualified applicants [illegible] previous drilling rig [illegible] and be required to [illegible] employment drug [illegible] medical prior to employ[illegible] phone calls please Plea[illegible] ward all resumes to [illegible] ence and certificate[illegible] Resources, Box 1096, [illegible] AB, T1R 1B9 or fax [illegible] 8686 or email to [illegible] heart@ensignenergy.com

CLASS 3 DRIVERS [illegible] Taber, Alberta operat[illegible] and pressure truck[illegible] perience necessary [illegible] training provided M[illegible] Fax resume 403-223-6199

EXPERIENCED HEAVY [illegible] Mechanics required [illegible] to work on tractor[illegible] We offer compe[illegible] benefit plan to suc[illegible] dates Positions av[illegible] diately. Fax resume 78[illegible] 5833

FULL-TIME GRAPHIC AR[illegible] Busy newspaper/print [illegible] Olds, Alberta Experience [illegible] Competitive wages [illegible] Email resume [illegible] ott@olds.greatwest.[illegible] chambre@sundre.greatwe[illegible] No phone calls

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Name _____ Heading _____ Number of Weeks _____

Address _____ Credit Card _____ Exp. _____

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Print your ad clearly in the spaces provided. Signature _____

_____/15

Payment must be included with ad. If mailing, mail to: SEE Classified, Ste. 200, 10217 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1X8. We cannot confirm receipt of ad. Ads are not guaranteed to run and we reserve the right to re-categorize, edit and refuse private party ads. Please include GST in payment.

Misc Services

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Our people care about organic food, supplements, and natural body care products that are good for people and the earth. And recycling too. We also offer a competitive salary and benefits. We have positions available for:

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• Cashiers
Natural Living dept. *(holistic care)*
Produce and Grocery clerks

Edmonton North *(12120 Jasper Avenue)*
Produce and Grocery Clerks
• Cashiers

For more information on Planet Organic, please visit our web site at www.planetorganic.ca

Please send your resume to careers@planetorganic.ca

PLANET ORGANIC

Help Wanted

COMMUNITY SERVICES Director The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass requires a highly motivated person to expedite our Culture, Recreation and Community Services needs. This position is responsible to coordinate, plan and direct the total parks, recreation, cultural and FCSS functions of the Municipality including programs and facilities within approved policies and procedure. Must have knowledge of Culture Recreation and Community Services and at least five (5) years of related Municipal experience in a similar setting as a senior manager. Other combinations of education and experience [illegible] considered. Please submit [illegible] and references in confidence by Friday, December [illegible] 2006 to Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, P.O. Box 600 [illegible] Crowsnest Pass, AB. T0K 0E0 Fax 403-563-5474 Email exe-casst@crowsnestpass.com

FULL-TIME JOURNEYMAN RV Technician in Okanagan Valley. 5 year minimum experience required. Must be productive, organized, have excellent work ethic. Full benefits. No seasonal layoffs. Resume to Kim Roberts service@rosmanrv.com Fax 250-545-1632

GAS PLANT Operators wanted. Camp job experience is an asset but not mandatory. Must be mechanical, self motivated, ambitious, willing to learn and work well with others and alone. Acceptable drivers abstract. Courses required but not mandatory. Can be taken after job starts. First aid, CPR, WHIMS, TDG, H2S Alive, bear awareness, ATV Rider. Good wages and medical benefits. Everhart Contracting Services. Call 780-525-2147 Fax 780-525-2487 Email erhrti@telus.net

HEAVY DUTY Journeyman mechanic. 3 - 5 years experience, apprentices may be considered. Automotive experience an asset. Benefits. Fax resume to [illegible] Phone 780 [illegible]

JOURNEYMAN HEAVY Duty Technician at Kingland Freightliner, Hay River NT requires solid technical and diagnostic skills. CAT, Cummins, Detroit and Mercedes diesel experience preferred. [illegible] pension, group [illegible] relocation assistance. Apply to employment@kinglandford.com or fax to 867-874-2843

MAINTENANCE PERSON I Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent experience in heavy equipment operations, water and wastewater experience. Class 3 w/air endorsement. Assets: First Aid Level C, Water Treatment I, Wastewater Treatment and Collection I. Full benefit package. Salary dependent on qualifications. Send resume to Owen Farnel, Town of Fox Creek, Box 149, Fox Creek, AB T0H 1P0 Email: owen@town.fox-creek.ab.ca Fax 780-622-4247

Help Wanted

OILFIELD SERVICES Company offering competitive wages, generous RRSP program, full benefits package and camp accommodation currently seeking truck drivers for oilfield hauling of winch trucks, bed trucks, tank trucks, coil tubing units and vac [illegible] 5 years experience [illegible]. Please send resume with drivers abstract by email hr@blacky[illegible]energy.ca or by fax 403-366-[illegible]

PHONE [illegible]TED? [illegible] for first [illegible] Everyone [illegible] Guaranteed [illegible] distance pa[illegible] Connect now [illegible]

RED DEER ADVOCATE daily newspaper seeks reporter for temporary full-time position. Position Jan./07 to June/07. Wage is $18 - $23 /hour depending on experience. Must have journalism training, sharp sense of the news and good reporting and [illegible] skills. [illegible] samples of [illegible] and [illegible] careers@[illegible] or fax 403-314-4395

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SHOP FOREMAN Technicians. Get in on the ground [illegible] expanding General Motors dealership. We are looking for [illegible] with solid technical ability, strong diagnosis and troubleshooting skills, great customer service. General Motors experience is an asset. Submit resume and references to: Clark Dyck, Ulmer Chevrolet (Lloydminster) [illegible] SK AB [illegible] Fax [illegible] 2099 Email lloydservice@[illegible]chev.com

TALISMAN LOGGING in Hinton, Alberta requires full-time journeyman heavy duty mechanic. Experienced with trucks/trailers. $28 /hour starting, benefits and overtime. Fax resume to 780-865-[illegible]

TELEMARKETERS REQUIRED Work in your own home. Absolutely no selling. 5 - 9 p.m. Earn up to $15 per hour. Forward resume to: The Water Clinic, 850 - 47 Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0X4 Fax 306-242-1223 Email: sales@thewaterclinic.com

THE COUNTY of Newell has an immediate opening for a Journeyman Heavy Duty Mechanic. Automotive experience would be an asset. Please submit applications to: Dan Bartman, Shop Foreman, County of Newell No. 4, Box 130, Brooks, AB, T1R 1B2. Fax to 403-362-8681 or email to: bartmand@countyofnewell.ab.ca

THE COUNTY of Newell has openings for a Public Works Construction Manager and a Public Works Maintenance Manager (roads). The salaries for these positions are up to $85,000. and $80,000. respectively. Please submit applications to: Ritch Sudeyko, Superintendent of Public Works, County of Newell No. 4, Box 130, Brooks, AB, T1R 1B2. Fax to 403-362-8681 or email to sudeykor@countyofnewell.ab.ca.

THE TOWN of Irricana located NE of Calgary is seeking a Supervisor of Operations for Public Works Department. Please see the employment opportunities at www.irricana.com

Help Wanted

WIS INTERNATIONAL, a global inventory solutions provider, is looking for you to join their Alberta teams. Competitive wages with regular performance reviews. No experience necessary. Paid travel. Opportunity for advancement. Positions available province wide. Inventory barcode scanning and collection. If interested please fax resume to Alberta South 403-272-2121 or Alberta North 780-473-7218. Apply online at www.wisintl.com or email your resume to lhaydock@wisintl.com

Business Opportunity

NEED EXTRA CASH? [illegible] $1000 [illegible] week at home stuff[illegible] [illegible] 381

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TENDERS WANTED [illegible] move/replace tin roof. Approx [illegible] begin April 1 [illegible] more information contact John Munchrath, Rockyford Ag Society [illegible] 2140

WELL ESTABLISHED light oilfield hauling (hotshot) company, Edmonton area, financially sound, annual sales well over $1 million, very good growth potential. Desirable [illegible] program [illegible] 780-464-3560

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Support Groups

COUNSELLING available from supervised Masters' & Doctoral students in the UofA Counselling Psychology Graduate Program. For more info call 492-3746

Edmonton Transexual peer support group meets every 2nd, 4th Sun at Pride Center, 2pm 868-9378

Feeling Blue? You can talk to us 24Hour Distress Line 482-HELP (4357) Here to listen when life hurts. The Support Network. www.thesupportnetwork.com

ILLUSIONS' SOCIAL CLUB
A Safe, Friendly & Discreet Support & Social Club for Crossdressers, TS's & their Supporters
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions
1-877-346-8858 Edmonton
(403) 234-9873 Calgary
P.O. Box 356, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 2J6
Plan to attend Winterfest '07 Feb 23/24

Men's Coming out group, safe, confidential peer led discussion group. Monday's starting May First. John 469-0512

SUPPORT FOR SMOKERS who are trying to quit. Call Nicotine Anonymous. Gwynn 443-3020 or Joan 423-1971 Wed night meetings

Support Groups

THE MANKIND PROJECT A men's group committed to personal growth, healing & community. Call Garret 452-5107

Women's Healing Circle Tuesdays 7-9 30pm Stillpoint Healing Center $10 each for 9 weeks. Call 488-5882

Volunteers

Teach an adult to read. Volunteer tutors needed. Centre for Family Literacy 421-7323 www.famlit.ca

BRAIN Neurobiology Research Program at UofA seeks individuals suffering from **panic attacks** for research study. Ca[illegible] provided

Help SENIORS with activities at non profit agency: cards, games. Program volunteers needed Wednesdays. Yvonne 434-4747

VOLUNTEER TUTORS needed. Can you read this? Many can't. Become a tutor and share the gift of reading. Call P.A.L.S. at 424-5514 to help change a life through literacy. Training and materials are provided

FREE BEER! Volunteers Needed to work at Rock and Blues events. Please call Frank at 439-7460

Do you like to drive? Volunteer to drive frail but walking seniors around Edmonton. Daytime Mon-Fri. We Pay the gas! 732-1221

Needed for office environment speaking w/seniors. Great computer experience! Call Deanna at 732-1221

Want to have fun driving grandmas and grandpas? We pay your gas!! 2hrs/week Monday-Friday days. Must have own vehicle. Call Deanna at 732-1221

FRANCOPHONES NEEDED as volunteers to help with pre-school literacy programs for the African French-speaking community. One Sat & Sun per month. Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. Suzanne 423-96[illegible]

HELP to broadcast news nationally for the blind and print-restricted! Email edmonton@voiceprintcanada.com, 451-8331

Literacy Tutors: Assist adults with developmental/physical disabilities to learn basic reading & writing skills. Flexible hours. Training provided. Lily 432-1137

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES is looking for enthusiastic volunteers. Flexible shifts. Rewarding experience that helps save lives. Please call 431-8740

DISTRESS LINE, Youthone.com Crisis Chat volunteers get excellent training, career-related skill development, rewarding experience AND ensure those in need will have someone **there** to listen when life hurts. Call the Support Network 732-6648 or www.thesupportnetwork.com

Local Food Basket Seeks Volunteers Wecan Food Basket a not - for - profit society, that provides the opportunity for people on fixed or limited incomes to access quality nutritious food at affordable prices, needs Food Basket Seeks Volunteers in the Edmonton area. Call 413-4525

Can you spare one morning/afternoon a week? The Learning Centre needs volunteers to help adults develop reading, writing and math skills. 429-0675

HOME CARE volunteers visit isolated neighbors, go for walks, help with errands. Call Capital Health Home Care 496-1300

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY recruiting volunteers. Victims' Assistance Program. Flexible daytime schedule, great training, support victims of domestic violence. jjohnson@johnhoward.org, 970-5121

Living Positive, supports people living with HIV. NeedsVolunteers for programs and fundraiser's 488-5768, e-mail: info@edmlivingpositive.ca

Volunteers Needed! Assist new immigrants on first time shopping trip for essentials. Mornings, weekdays. 424-3545, ext 249

Volunteers

Do you suffer from severe emotional and physical symptoms before your period each month? If you are between the ages of 18 and 49 and regularly experience depression, irritability, angry outbursts, or changes in sleep or appetite prior to menstruation, you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational treatment to alleviate these symptoms.

For more information, please contact 735-7878, Grey Nuns Clinical Research Group

[illegible] Little B[illegible] volunteers [illegible] riders w[illegible]

Volunteers urgently needed to canvass in March for Kidney Foundation. Please call Darr[illegible] at 451-6[illegible]

CHRISTMAS BUREAU requires volunteers for day time s[illegible] Dec 22nd & 23rd. Call [illegible] 414-768[illegible]

HEALTHY [illegible] required for research studies [illegible] the brain Neurobiology Research Program at UofA. Call 407-[illegible] or 407-3221. Reimbursement provided

Mentors for children/youth: act as a positive role model to children/youth in group care. Evenings/weekends. Lily 432-1137

Brain Neurobiology Research Program at UofA seeks individuals suffering from SEVERE PMS for research study (call 407-3775) Reimbursement provided

Brain Neurobiology Research Program at UofA seeks individuals suffering from SOCIAL PHOBIA for research study (call 407-3221) Reimbursement provided

Brain Neurobiology Research Program at UofA seeks individuals who have recently delivered and are suffering from POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION for research study. Call 407-3906 Reimbursement provided

Literacy tutors: Assist adults with developmental/physical disabilities to learn basic reading/writing skills. Flex/hours, training provided. Lily 432-1137

The Alberta Diabetes Foundation (ADF) requires volunteers for administration and events. Get involved! Call 780 447 2643

Leisure Companions: Assist adults with intellectual disabilities to participate in leisure activities [illegible] Flex/hours. Lily 432-1137

[illegible] Edmonton volunteers needed for 24hr crisis line. Males/females welcome. Info/training dates 432-4102

Volunteer for a more just [illegible] www.multiculturalcoalition.ca or call Janina at 423-1973

Models

Freelance photographer seeking models 18+. Free portfolio in exchange for posing. 604-5621

I Saw You

Saw you in dog-park w/Dexter. Hes cute but you will always be my puppy

Alicia, you are truly golden. LEKM

To place your FREE "I Saw You" call 430-9003!

Grog, spin me a set. A dark one. And record it.

Ganeeel, the pigeons are good to fly. I repeat, good to fly. Over.

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CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

with THE KID — DECEMBER 21-26

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)
With the Sun steppin' into your sign on Friday, we mark light's return and the start of longer days. Now, good ol' Sol ain't the only one due for a change, either. At the beginnin' of the weekend do less of what you wanna do, and start followin' the path the cosmos has set out for you!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)
Know why you can do anything you desire? 'Cause you're so adaptable your name is synonymous with flow, as in "go with the." Even if you lose everything, you'll find astounding ways to live on less than pennies a day. Ain't no big thing to give this a shot when you realize you're all you've got – and that's a lot!

PISCES (Feb. 19 – March 20)
Bein' a water sign, it's easy for you to resonate at a higher level if you're surrounded by those who are great. That's why you need to stop hangin' with turkeys and find some friends who can fly. Once you've been shown how to get off the ground, you can soar high on your own instead of flockin' around!

ARIES (March 21 – April 19)
This time, for sure, no happiness lies in a half-assed, half-hearted 'n' half-baked compromise. The longer this waffling lingers, the more success'll slip through your fingers. You've got no time for a delicate balancin' act. Don't delay while there's prey – you need to go on the attack!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20)
Just 'cause you're good at practically everything you do, it don't mean folks gotta listen to you. This week, if you happen to see someone makin' mistakes, don't try to rush in and take over before somethin' breaks. While learnin' to walk, babies'll fall so you'd better let 'em – or they won't learn nothin' at all!

GEMINI (May 21 – June 20)
You've got no trouble usin' your slick silver tongue, but sayin' too much this week means you're gonna get stung. If you talk too much in an environment that's new, some of those words'll come back to haunt you. This week, keep your mouth shut and your eyes open 'cause the situation needs some serious scopin'!

CANCER (June 21 – July 22)
If you keep runnin' 'round like a decapitated chicken, Karma's gonna come and give you a lickin'. Not the sweet, tender, lollipop kind but the type that leaves you with a sore, bruised behind. This week, you can avoid your bum gettin' paddled by ensurin' your distractions have all skee-daddled!

LEO (July 23 – Aug. 22)
You lions sure love to roar but that ain't always enough to even the score. Now before barin' your fangs and wielding your claws, you better hold back and take a pause. That stuff might work on the wildebeests but when you're lookin' down the barrel of a big game hunter's gun, the smartest thing you can do is turn tail and run!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)
You're in the black, got the wind at your back and with this turn o' the tides, now you're on the attack. Such a joyous occasion calls for celebration, but don't forget about the challenges that you're still facin'. This weekend, don't go and overdo it or when Monday comes, you're gonna rue it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)
Sometimes it'd be nice to be one of the world's less complicated creatures instead of the one that tends to over think. Heck, even a caterpillar would probably shrink from cocoonin' if you told it that it'd have to die in order to transform into a butterfly. This week, play it dumb and accept the changes as they come!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)
You're about to receive a (not so) new mission from Cosmic Control. Now, it's gonna put you thigh-high in the thick of things, includin' all the work that followin' your destiny brings. That's why now's the time to take a nice li'l break – so you can think about the decisions you'll soon have to make!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)
There's no reason to fret 'bout the upcomin' battle – yet. There won't be one either, if you take a breather this week and figure out exactly which arrow in your archer's arsenal makes you unbeatable. Then, when the time comes to deliver, you'll be able to quickly pull it out of the quiver!

You can contact The Kid at cruisinthecosmos@hotmail.com

D.I.Y. sex guide

Hold on to your soup cans and bubble wrap

MY MESSY BEDROOM
JOSEY VOGELS

YEAH, OKAY, SO MARTHA STEWART KNOWS how to make Abraham Lincoln's log cabin out of pretzels, crackers and peanut butter, but can she make a labia stretcher out of a few potato chip bag clips? From knitting to decoupage, everyone's getting crafty these days, so this year, I'm offering some cheap, last-minute creative holiday gift ideas that would make Martha blush.

For the single guy on your list, how about an **Artificial Pussy**?

Remove the lid and bottom of an empty soup can (or similarly sized can), and insert a white tube sock, folding the open part back over the rim of the can. Repeat using two or three socks—slide your fingers in to test snugness. Shove a plastic bag inside as a liner, and fold the open end over the top of the can as well. Secure with elastics. Pour in some warmed baby oil or lube and he's in business. When he's, um, done, he just chucks plastic bag, and replaces it with a clean one for next time.

For extra fun, he can use a pillow to elevate it to the proper pussy level or wrap a heating pad around your fake pussy to further simulate the real thing.

Cost: less than $5, or zilch if you've already got this shit lying around the house.

For her, try a **Bubblewrap Dildo**.

Cut bubble wrap (you can buy it at most stationery stores) into an 8 by 10-inch rectangle. Roll lengthwise with the bubbles on the outside. Slip a condom over the entire roll, secure it with tape, and voila, you now have a resilient disposable dildo. Tell her to practice her Kegels by trying to pop the bubbles.

Cost: If you're smart, you've saved some bubble wrap and have condoms already. Otherwise, you'll have to shell out a couple of bucks for supplies.

Here's a great idea for a cheap and funky **Strap-on Harness**. Get a pair of your tightest and sexiest 501s, and just pop a dildo (one with a flared end) between the buttons. Use a scruffy pair and on Christmas morning she can play Santa's fix-it guy who's just dropped by to check your pipes. If you want more freedom and movement, turn the 501s into cutoffs. Just make sure they're still tight enough to hold the dildo in place.

Cost: You'll need to shell out for a dildo with a flared base—there are several models available at your local sex shop—or you can adapt the end of the bubble wrap dildo with duct tape for mere pennies.

As for the potato chip bag clip labia stretcher, it's a little too complicated to explain here. If you like that kind of thing, get yourself a copy of the book I took these ideas from—*Kinky Crafts: 99 Do-It-Yourself S/M Toys for the Kinky Handyperson* (Greenery Press). It has great crafty ideas for everything from canes and whips to bondage boards.

Here's a super simple and cheap idea for a sex toy for him: Kids' air wings. Lube 'em up and off he goes.

Cost: Free if you know any kids who have outgrown theirs. Otherwise, try the dollar store.

If you want more freedom and movement, turn the 501s into cutoffs. Just make sure they're still tight enough to hold the dildo.

Make an **Erogenous Zone Game**. Find a sexy shot of your sweetheart or use an image of a hot body and stick your partner's head on it. Glue the image to a square piece of cardboard. Make a cardboard arrow and stick it into the center with one of those copper butterfly thingies that make it so you can spin the arrow. Buy sticky dots and dice from the dollar store. Tell your partner to stick the dots on the image wherever they'd like you to get busy. Spin the arrow and throw the dice to determine how many minutes you must spend on the selected spot.

Cost: Under $5 for cardboard, butterfly thingie, sticky dots, and dice.

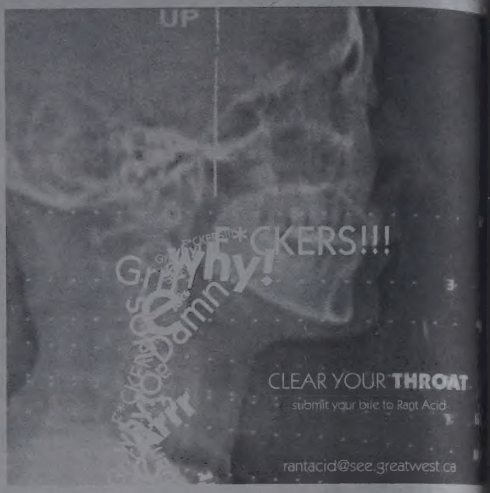
For him or her, how about some **Homemade Smut**? Buy some nice Japanese paper, or hell, just cut up brown paper grocery bags into "pages" and glue sparkles to them. Write a hot story. If the creative juices are flowing, copy one you like, print it up in a nice swirly font, and glue it to the pages.

Tie the pages together with nice ribbon and toss a hot Polaroid of yourself (or, stay ing creative here, a picture of your partner's fave hottie with your head superimposed) on the cover.

Combine this with some homemade massage oil, make your sweetie a sexy mix and you've got a gift that keeps on giving.

Cost: Under $5 for paper, ribbon, and sparkles.

As Martha would say, it's a good thing.



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No light petting, please

Swapping soft for full can be tricky

SAVAGE LOVE
DAN SAVAGE

MY WIFE AND I HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOUR and a half years, and we both are bi. We've been propositioned by—and played with—a number of sexy friends heteroflexible enough not to want/need full swap. So our play with others has been limited to oral and light petting.

We've now been approached by a very sexy couple, a straight guy and bi female, who want to do a full hetero swap. The male is not interested in any bi play. He is also borderline overly intense about his attraction to my wife. His girlfriend is very hot, and playing with her could be fun. The thing is, unlike cuckolds, I have a hang-up about another guy doing the full hetero swap with my wife. Light petting and oral is fine, but I feel that saving something "just for us" gives us an anchor in this sea of swingers.

Am I too square and insecure? Should I try and open myself to the idea of another guy screwing my wife? If we ever do full swap, how can we avoid the pitfalls of insecurity and jealousy? Will you please advise?

Swap Curious

Sure, SC, but the first bit of advice I wanna give you is rhetorical. Only pre–Vatican II Catholics and modern Mormon virgins use the phrase "light petting." People are going to have a hard time taking you seriously as swingers—hell, they're going to have a hard time taking you seriously as nonvirgins—if you insist on saying "light petting" instead of "mutual masturbation" or "manual stimulation."

As for "full hetero swap," well, that's pretty dunky, too, but it is a phrase that actual swingers use so I'm going to let it slide. In the Swinging Sea, "soft swap" means you only do oral and manual with others; "full swap" means you do full-blown vaginal intercourse. So you're soft swappers contemplating full swapping, SC, not light petters.

Okay, on to your question...

Not all swingers seek to avoid insecurity and jealousy. Gently or aggressively manipulating those feelings is, for many swingers, an intrinsic part of the thrill. But all swingers want to avoid the pitfalls of insecurity and jealousy. And how do they do it? By having frank, honest discussions and setting clear, mutually acceptable boundaries. So long as you know what you're comfortable with, you and the wife should be able to safely navigate the potentially treacherous emotional dynamics that are an unavoidable aspect of swinging.

Up to now your boundaries have worked just well: Manual stim and oral—soft swap—is okay; some other guy's dick pounding away at your wife's pussy—full swap—is not okay.

Should you now abandon boundaries that have served you so well up to this point? Well, you wouldn't be writing me, and you wouldn't be signing off as "Swap Curious," if you weren't, you know, curious. (Insight like that is why I get paid the big bucks.) It sounds to me like, as much as you might want to give full swap a try, you're not sure you can wholly trust this guy.

You describe him as "borderline overly intense" about his desire to fuck the living shit out of your wife. But at the same time, you seem attracted to his energy and, of course, to his wife.

So what do you do?

Test them. Suggest to this other couple that, at first, you would like to play under your current rules: soft swap only, but no bi play, since he's not into that. If this other guy really wants your wife that badly, he should be thrilled to get a crack at her even if he doesn't get to fuck her. If after agreeing to a night of oral and manual this other guy verbally suggests upgrading to full swap mid-scene, well, he gets an F. If he physically attempts to upgrade to the full hetero—if he physically attempts to initiate vaginal intercourse—he gets an F-.

But if this other couple demonstrates that they can respect your boundaries before you agree to shift them, well, then they might be good candidates for satisfying your curiosity about full swap.

I'm not in the best shape. After a couple of minutes of the old "pelvic thrust," I get winded. I know I need to improve my health in general, the whole "diet and exercise" routine. But are there specific exercises that can improve your sexual performance?

One Boy Eagerly Seeking Exercise

Sorry, OBESE, but there's no single exercise or workout gizmo that'll whip you into shape from navel to taint. You don't have to be a gym rat to have a satisfying sex life, of course, but all fucking—even if you're lucky enough to be strapped down to a bed, completely immobilized, and all you have to do is lie there and maintain a reasonably convincing erection—requires some minimal degree of physical fitness. Are your arteries lined with nacho cheese sauce? Are your lungs full of tobacco smoke? Well, guess what? You're not going to get that hard if your heart can't pump blood into your dick, and that blood is gonna be useless if your lungs can't get any damn oxygen into it.

If you've reached the stage where five minutes of pelvic thrusting winds you, get your fat ass off the couch and to a doctor's office first, and a gym second.

As a hetero male, I just wanted to say that your response to Freaked Out Girl was right on. (She dumped her boyfriend when he told her about his foot fetish.) I've dated this type before: young, inexperienced, more conventional than they want to admit, and totally unaware of how men behave as real human beings. All the words FOG uses—"sweet," "tender," "considerate," "normal"—are the kinds of words you'd use to describe every generic, one-dimensional love interest in every clichéd chick flick ever made. If pornography supposedly gives men unrealistic expectations and encourages us to treat women like objects, mainstream film and television does exactly the same for women.

I've been mistaken for that kind of fantasy archetype more times than I care to recall (although I can't for the life of me figure out why), and I'm sure this is exactly how FOG thought of her unfortunate ex. He probably didn't tell her about his kink sooner because, deep down, he sensed that she would react exactly the way she did. As far as I'm concerned, Dan, you can't point this out often enough: The conventional idea of what constitutes a "normal" man is absolutely 100 per cent nonexistent. Please keep spreading the word.

Real Love Is Weird

You're right, RLIW, popular culture does encourage women to have unrealistic expectations. If real straight men filled their girlfriend's apartments with a million twinkling votive candles as often as fictional ones do, three large American cities would burn to the ground every weekend. And rolling around in a canopy bed sprinkled with rose petals? Uh, sorry, but your boyfriend/husband is unlikely to find that fantasy terribly compelling—not unless your sister or your mother or your or his best friend is rolling around in that bed with you.

Men are freaks. And you know what? So are lots of women.

For lots more letters about my response to FOG—some in support, some slapping me around—go to www.thestranger.com/savage/fog.

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